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## Online Revamp Simplifies SALDO Applications

New form, easier access, quicker turnaround potential, with the same fees.

The revamped LVPC Subdivision and Land Development Application now enables people to use an online form that guides them through the sometimes-complicated process of applying for new development projects or changes to existing ones.

The new Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) webpage will give developers, engineers, architects or municipal officials access to an online tool that not only gathers their relevant information, but automatically calculates the required application fees.

Applicants still have to deliver the completed application to the LVPC office with their submittal package, but the form is downloadable so that it can be easily printed after its completed.

Under the current process, necessary information is often missing or incomplete on initial submittals, prompting staff requests for more information that can sometimes cause inconvenience for the applicants and delay the submission process.

The new process is the first major revamp in more than two decades. The new application process is effective January 1. The site will be available at <https://www.lvpc.org/subdivision---land-development.html>

“This is going to be a simpler and more streamlined process for everyone,” said LVPC Chief Community Planner Samantha Smith. “Everyone will benefit, especially if it helps reduce the turnaround time, by freeing up time we would otherwise spend chasing down information.”

The current fees and deadlines, which generally range from 30 to 45 days for the LVPC to complete its review, do not change.

Under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the LVPC serves as the planning agency for Lehigh and Northampton counties, reviewing all subdivision and land development plans, as well as performing stormwater reviews and municipal ordinance reviews done in any of the 62 municipalities of the bi-county region.

In addition, the LVPC serves as the technical staff for the boroughs of Chapman, Glendon, Slatington and West Easton, because those municipalities don't have their own SALDO's or planning commissions.

As such, the LVPC reviews more than 400 subdivision and land development plans and an average of 170 stormwater runoff plans every year.

“This provides clarity to the process,” said Senior Community Planner Jill Seitz. “It will help avoid unnecessary delays because it's more streamlined.”

The biggest difference is the new form is more specific about the information needed, whether it be the details of a simple lot line adjustment, the acreage of a major land development, the number of new housing units or the disturbed acreage in a stormwater plan. The online form has inputs for all of that, and an autofill function that automatically calculates the fees.

A second form has been created to collect the basic site and contact information when it becomes necessary to submit additional materials for a project. In addition, a lengthy frequently asked questions instruction is there to help newcomers through the process.

Anyone who has questions about the new site can contact Community Planning staff by calling 610-264-4544.