

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

SUMMER 2009

Report

BOARD APPROVES ATV ORDINANCE

The Board of Supervisors concluded a long, sometimes emotional process on August 11 when they approved an ordinance regulating the use of recreational vehicles in the township.

"This was one of the most difficult issues we've wrestled with," said chairman David R. Nyman. "People have strong opinions on both sides. If neither side is completely happy with the outcome, then we did a pretty good job."

Supervisors took the ordinance under consideration in response to complaints from residents in one section of the township. Trying to balance the rights of individuals to use their property against the need to protect public health, safety and welfare, the ordinance went through several reviews and comment sessions before the final version was approved.

The ordinance sets limits on when and where recreational vehicles can be used. It also sets standards for dust mitigation and noise pollution.

Motorized vehicles used for law enforcement, fire emergency, military and other government uses are exempted from the ordinance. The use of vehicles for agriculture, yard work, landscaping, snow removal or other reasonable property maintenance is also exempted.

"Unfortunately, there was a need," said Nyman. People just can't respect each other's needs as neighbors. It's a shame the township has to come in and legislate common courtesy. We tried to listen to both sides and come up with a solution."



Recreation Vehicle Ordinance at a Glance:

Covered Vehicles: motorcycles; trail bikes; all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles; go-carts; snowmobiles; trucks, sport utility vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles; and any other similarly mechanized vehicle.

Setback: 50 feet from any property line, unless written permission from adjoining property owner is granted.

Dust: operator must take measures to ensure dust does not cross over to an adjoining property to an unreasonable degree.

Equipment Exhaust: all vehicles must be fitted with an original equipment exhaust system and must contain a federally approved spark arrestor. Noise may not exceed 99 decibels at 20 inches.

Hours: use is permitted only between 11 a.m. and sunset. for no more than two hours at a time; limited to no more than three vehicles at a time on one parcel.

Penalties: first offense carries a verbal warning; second offense carries a \$100 fine; third offense carries a \$1,000 fine.

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Want to have the latest East Rockhill Township news conveniently delivered right to your inbox? It's fast, easy and FREE!

Just go to eastrockhilltownship.org and subscribe to our new eNewsletter. Provide your email address and we'll start sending you our periodic electronic newsletter to bridge the gap between these printed newsletters. The newsletter is published monthly, usually in the week between the Board of Supervisors work session and their regular voting meeting. You'll get timely updates on important issues, notifications of community events, and other information you need to know.

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This Edition of The East Rockhill Township Report is published by the Board of Supervisors to keep you informed on timely information about the township and your local government.

Visit us on the web at: www.EastRockhillTownship.org

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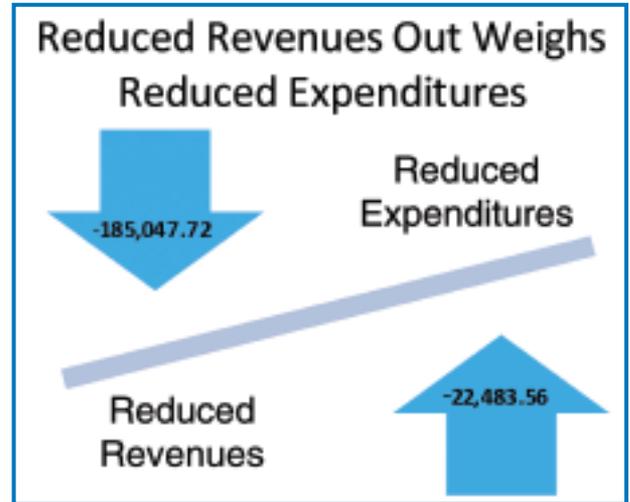


MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

July 1 marks the beginning of the second half of the Township's fiscal year. It is significant because it is the time of year the Township undergoes a mid-year budget performance review and begins planning for the next fiscal year's budget.

East Rockhill Township is facing the same financial crisis with which many small businesses and individuals are coping. Despite a reduction in staff and significant expenditure reductions, the Township is unable to compensate for the loss of revenues caused by the impact of the economic recession. Compared to our performance at this time last year, our overall revenues are down \$185,047 and our expenditures are down \$22,483.56.

The primary revenue sources for the Township are Earned Income Tax (38% of the budget), Real Estate Taxes (18% of the budget) and the Real Estate Transfer Tax (7% of the budget). The Emergency Services Tax and Cable Franchise Tax each produce approximately 4% of budgeted revenues. The remaining 29% of the Township's revenues come from user fees, fines, penalties and state and federal funding.



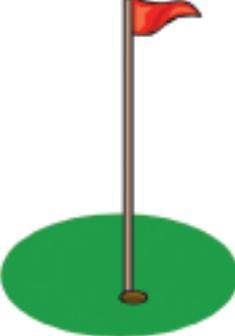
Significant declines in Real Estate Transfer Tax receipts (down 74%), Earned Income Tax receipts and Program Fees (building and development related fees) have been more extensive than expected and far outweigh the additional receipts from the 0.95 mill real estate tax increase implemented for 2009.

The Township will continue efforts to reduce and avoid any discretionary expenditure wherever possible but unless the Township's primary revenue sources (Real Estate Transfer Tax, Earned Income Tax and Program Fees) rebound, East Rockhill Township likely will finish the year with a significant deficit.



OPEN SPACE PLANNING CONTINUES

Municipal Golf Course Project on Hold



About a year ago, East Rockhill Township conducted a citizen survey to ascertain resident opinion on the municipal golf course project that was proposed as an economic development and recreation project during the high economic growth years earlier this decade and ways to improve communication with Township residents. The sole intent of the golf course project was to provide another source of revenue beside property taxes. The economic climate was changing rapidly and the Township wanted to hear your thoughts. Although an alternative revenue source is needed now more than ever, the risk associated with the start up costs and the ambiguous resident opinion of the project led to the decision to place the project on hold.

However, adversity often leads to opportunity and Township Officials thought some of the ideas and suggestions offered by residents through the citizen survey were worth exploring. One suggestion was that the Township preserve the municipal golf course project design and concept but break it down into smaller projects that are more feasible in the short term and will have immediate benefits to residents.

The first suggestion was to utilize the golf cart path design and grading plan as the basis for a walking path that can connect with the Township's existing and proposed trail system. The Township's Open Space Committee reviewed the Township's existing parks and open space and determined that the cart path trail could provide a valuable extension of the existing trail systems in Markey Park and along the East Branch as well as the proposed Three Mile Run Greenway. This idea was formalized in the 2009 Open Space Plan Update adopted in April of this year. The Township plans on exploring grant funding for recreation projects such as walking paths and seeking out partners to make this project a reality.

The second suggestion involves the extension of public sewer to replace the older/marginal on-lot systems of properties

continued on next page...

OPEN SPACE PLANNING CONTINUES...continued on from page 2

bordering the proposed golf course property. This project would not directly involve the golf course project but would address on-lot septic system problems and bring the utilities closer to the project site for future connection. With the current opportunities for "stimulus" funding, grant monies for expansion of public sewer systems might be available and is worth exploring.

Additionally, to address recommendations regarding communications, our website has been re-designed (and been cited as award winning) and we have instituted a monthly e-news letter, keeping residents apprised more frequently of Township news and local activities.

The East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors value and consider the input of our residents. It is in this manner we strive to continue to preserve those characteristics that make East Rockhill a distinctive place in which to live.

ELLEN ROESENER RETIRES AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Township Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Ellen Roesener retired after 20 years of service in May. Ellen saw the township through many changes, including the formation of the Pennridge Regional Police Department while holding the position of police secretary, and transitioning the township to electronic filing while serving as township assistant secretary.

To honor Ellen for her years of dedicated service, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution and presented her with an award at their March 17 meeting.



East Rockhill Supervisors, from left, Gary Volovnik, Dave Nyman and John Cressman honored Ellen Roesener for her dedicated service as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.



Kim Mauer is the township's new bookkeeper.

Township Welcomes New Employee

Due to budget constraints, the position was filled by hiring Kim Mauer as a part-time bookkeeper and assigning the position's other responsibilities to existing staff, an arrangement that will be evaluated in next year's budget proposal.

A Council Rock grad, Kim graduated from Bucks County Community College. She spent several years working in accounting for a cabinet-making company before joining the East Rockhill staff.

As bookkeeper, Kim is responsible for all the accounts payable, receivables and banking for the township.

NEW FENCE? NEW SHED? NEW POOL?

Don't Forget the Permit!

If you are considering a home improvement project, please call the township at 215-257-9156 to determine what permits you will need. A quick call could keep you from needing costly changes that can result from starting work without a permit.



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DID YOU KNOW? The U.S. Census Will Happen Next Year

The United States Constitution requires a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. Your participation in the census is required by law.

Starting in February 2010, census questionnaires will be mailed or hand-delivered to every residence in the country. The forms should take less than 10 minutes to complete; federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.

Data collected by the census is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.



Here are key dates in the 2010 Census Timeline:

- Fall 2008: Recruitment began for local census jobs for early census operations.
- Spring 2009: Census employees going door-to-door to update address list nationwide.
- Fall 2009: Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.

- February – March 2010: Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
- April 1, 2010: Census Day
- April – July 2010: Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
- December 2010: By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
- March 2011: By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information, visit www.census.gov.

U.S. Census Bureau
Philadelphia Regional Office
833 Chestnut Street, Suite 504, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 717-1800 or 1-800-262-4236
FAX: (215) 717-0755
TDD: (215) 717-0894
E-mail: Philadelphia.Regional.Office@census.gov

LAST CHANCE IN 2009 FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION **Saturday - Sept. 26th**

The final **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**, sponsored by the Bucks County Planning Commission, is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26** at the parking lot of the **Quakertown Community Pool on Mill Street**.
The collection will take place rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

What can I bring?

As many as **three old computers and up to 25 gallons or 225 pounds of hazardous products** can be brought to the event. Read the label! Products will have cautionary words on the label such as: Danger, Warning, or Caution. Other words or phrases that can signal hazardous products include poisonous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling.

If there are no words indicating it is a hazardous product, it probably isn't.

Bring: Pesticides (Chlordane, DDT, Malathion, Sevin, rodent poison); Flammables (oil-based paint, paint thinner, spot removers, gasoline, kerosene, gas/oil mixture, heating oil); Caustics (ammonia-based cleaners, household lye, oven cleaner, drain cleaner, metal cleaner).

Do Not Bring: latex paint*; appliances with or without Freon; asbestos; biological waste; explosives; gas cylinders; household batteries (regular alkaline); PCBs; pressurized CFCs (greater than one pound); radioactive waste; tires.

** to dispose of latex paint, remove the lid to allow paint to air dry or mix with absorbent (i.e. kitty litter) until no longer a liquid; put in with regular trash.*

For more information, call the Bucks County Planning Commission at 215-345-3400 or visit www.buckscounty.org and click on "How do I...Recycle in Bucks?"

WANT TO SAVE ENERGY?

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs Are the Answer

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs:

- use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer;
- save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime;
- produce about 75 percent less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling;
- are available in different sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors.



How to Choose the Right Light

Matching the right CFL to the right kind of fixture helps ensure that it will perform properly and last a long time. For example:

- CFLs perform best in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table and floor lamps, wall sconces, pendants, and outdoor fixtures.
- For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL than a spiral CFL since the design of the reflector evenly distributes the light down to your task area.
- If a light fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way socket fixture, you'll need to use a special ENERGY STAR qualified CFL designed to work in these applications. Make sure to look for CFLs that specify use with dimmers or three-way fixtures.
- Choose a qualified CFL that offers a shade of white light that works best for you. For example, while most CFLs provide warm or soft white light for your home, you could choose a cooler color for task lighting.

To choose the **ENERGY STAR** qualified CFL with the right amount of light, find a qualified CFL that is labeled as equivalent to the incandescent bulb you are replacing. Light bulb manufacturers include this information right on the product packaging to make it easy for consumers to choose the equivalent bulb. Common terms include “*Soft White 60*” or “*60 Watt Replacement*.”

You should also check the lumen rating to find the right CFL. The higher the lumen rating, the greater the light output.

Vector Control for the Bucks County Health Department at 215-345-3334 or by email atpjsmith@co.bucks.pa.us

Where to Use Compact Fluorescent Lights

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs provide the greatest savings in fixtures that are on for a substantial amount of time each day. At a minimum, ENERGY STAR recommends installing qualified CFLs in fixtures that are used at least 15 minutes at a time or several hours per day. The best fixtures to use qualified CFLs in are usually found in family and living rooms, kitchens, dining rooms, bedrooms, and the outdoors.



SEATS OPEN ON PA HIGHLANDS TRAIL NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

Seats are still open on the Appalachian Mountain Club's PA Highlands Trail Network Upper Bucks/Lower Northampton Steering Committee. The committee already includes

representatives from each municipality in the PA Highlands in Upper Bucks and Lower Northampton counties, plus county, land trust, and state park representatives.

To join the committee, contact Jennifer Heisey,

Mid-Atlantic recreation planner for the Appalachian Mountain Club, at 610-868-6906 or jheisey@outdoors.org.

The committee's first meeting was in June at the Nockamixon State Park Environmental Center. The first order of business for the committee will be creating an action plan for the PA Highlands Trail Network in Upper Bucks and Lower Northampton counties. The Environmental Center is located on Harrisburg School Road (parking lot 12) off Route 563/Mountain View Drive, behind the pool.

NEW STATUE HONORS WILLARD MARKEY

A life-sized statue of a golfer completing the perfect swing was dedicated to **Willard H. Markey Centennial Park** during a ceremony on May 29, 2009. The statue, designed and handcrafted by two of Willard Markey's nephews, honors his dedication and service to the township.

Mr. Markey's family members requested permission from the Board of Supervisors to donate the statue in his memory. The statue is crafted of brushed aluminum and stainless steel, and shows the fluid motion of the perfect golf swing follow-through.



DRIVING RANGE TOKENS MAKE A GREAT GIFT

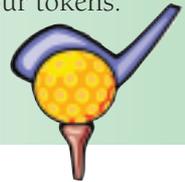
Late summer and early fall are great times for golf. You can keep your game in good shape by taking some practice swings in at the driving range at **Willard H. Markey Centennial Park**.

Stop by the township office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday to purchase your tokens.

Individual Tokens: \$5

Discount: 7 tokens for \$33

Seniors: \$4.50 per token



RESERVE MARKEY PARK'S PICNIC PAVILION AND FIELDS

Planning a family party? Does your organization need a picnic retreat? Reserve the picnic pavilion and/or fields at **Willard H. Markey Centennial Park** for your next event! Costs are very reasonable; just \$35 for up to 25 people and \$75 for 26 or more people. Additional field fees may apply for sports organizations.

To download an application, visit www.eastrockhilltownship.org

From the Penridge Regional Police Department



Passing a School Bus

Many times, motorists are stopped and cited for traffic offenses in situations where knowledge of the law could have saved the driver the trouble of being stopped and cited by an officer – not to mention a lot of money. Here's a question that has been raised in the past:

Can I make a right turn in front of a school bus that is stopped at an intersection with its red lights flashing? I'm not really passing the bus, so is it legal?

The short answer is **NO**. The duties of drivers approaching a stopped school bus are contained in Vehicle Code Section 3345 – Meeting or Overtaking School Bus. The answer to the question is contained in Subsection (a): Duty of Approaching Driver when Red Signals are Flashing. Subsection (a), in part, reads as follows:

The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection at which a school bus is stopped shall stop his vehicle at that intersection until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated.

A person who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$250. Additionally, a conviction will result in the driver's license of the violator being suspended for 60 days. A conviction will also result in 5 points being added to the driver's license under PennDOT's comprehensive system for driver education and control.

Knowing this simple rule will certainly save you some displeasure and money – and might just save a life. School-aged children are very unpredictable and may suddenly alight from a place of safety to catch the school bus. Stopping at the intersection and waiting for the school bus to be completely loaded or unloaded is not only the safe choice, it's also the law.

If you want to learn more, the full text of Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code can be found on-line at http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/vehicle_code/index.shtml. Drive safely.

Chief David Mettin
Penridge Regional Police Department

Across:

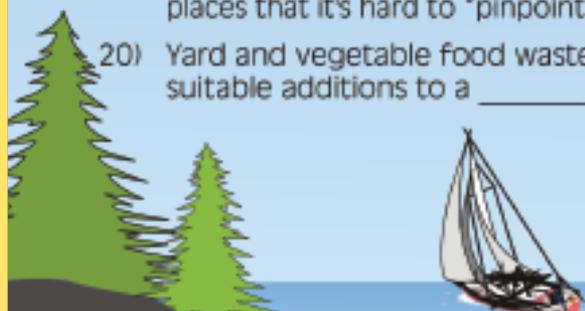
- 1) The area of land that drains into an estuary, lake, stream, or groundwater is known as a _____.
- 4) The _____ of speeding boats can erode shorelines.
- 5) Maintaining your _____ tank will help to prevent bacteria and nutrients from leaking into groundwater and surface waters.
- 7) Wetland plants act like a natural water _____, removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- 8) Leave your grass clippings on your _____ to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.
- 9) A single quart of motor _____, if disposed of improperly, can pollute 2 million gallons of water.
- 10) Fertilizers and animal wastes contain _____ that "feed" algae and other aquatic plants harmful to water quality.
- 12) Polluted runoff from both rural and _____ sources has a significant impact on water quality.
- 16) Storm _____ don't always connect to sewage treatment plants, so runoff can flow directly to rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
- 18) Follow directions carefully when applying _____ on your lawn—more isn't always better.
- 19) Polluted runoff (also called _____ source pollution) comes from so many places that it's hard to "pinpoint" a source.
- 20) Yard and vegetable food waste are suitable additions to a _____ pile.

Down:

- 2) Don't dump used motor oil into storm drains. _____ it!
- 3) _____ of soil from barren land can cloud nearby streams.
- 4) _____ prevent flooding, improve water quality, and provide habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife.
- 5) Marking "Do Not Dump, Drains to Bay" on a _____ is one way to educate people about polluted runoff.
- 6) Excess sediment, nutrients, toxics, and pathogens are all types of runoff _____.
- 11) Polluted _____ is the nation's #1 water quality problem.
- 13) The cattail is one wetland _____ that helps purify polluted runoff.
- 14) Too much _____ in water can harm aquatic life.
- 15) Proper crop and animal management on _____ helps to control water pollution.
- 17) _____ impact development helps control stormwater pollution through conservation approaches and techniques.

Choices:

compost	nonpoint	sediment
drains	nutrients	septic
erosion	oil	storm drain
farms	plant	urban
fertilizer	pollution	wakes
filter	recycle	watershed
lawn	runoff	wetlands
Low		



*For more information, please visit EPA's
Polluted Runoff web site at www.epa.gov/np*

Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge



FALL REMINDERS

As summer comes to an end, the leaves on the trees start to change color, and the air becomes crisp. It's a busy time as kids go back to school, but here are a few things to keep in mind as autumn comes upon us:

- **Space heaters** will be emerging from their hiding places as the cooler weather settles in. Make sure to give a space heater at least three feet of space around so it does not burn anything surrounding it.
- Check your **fire extinguisher** and make sure it has not expired. If you do not have one, get a small extinguisher - just in case.

- It always seems to slip our minds to check our **smoke detectors**. Well, here is your reminder! Test the battery to see if it needs to be replaced. If the detector is still not working, replace it.



- It's that time again - **Daylights Savings!** But this time we fall back and gain an hour. This happens on Sunday November 1, so mark your calendars and prepare for that always-needed extra hour of sleep.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

To most youngsters, there is nothing better than getting free candy! But because safety probably will not be their first priority on October 31, parents can help make sure this Halloween will be a safe one by following these tips:

- Costumes should be bright and reflective and should not drag on the ground; props should be flexible and their shoes should fit their feet.
- Make sure young kids are accompanied by an adult, even if its not you.
- Pack a small flashlight in the candy bag for when it gets too dark.
- Stay away from houses that are dark.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- A cell phone should be handy to call 911 or somebody if you get lost.
- Inspect all candy. Although tampering is rare it's better to be safe than sorry.
- As a homeowner it is your duty to make sure the yard is clear of anything that could be tripped over (i.e. hoses, ladders, flower pots, dog toys).
- Jack O'Lanterns should be lit by battery-powered flame, not a candle, to prevent a costume, bag, or decoration from catching on fire.
- Lock your dog or cats up in a room where they can't see the trick-or-treaters. Don't forget, chocolate can be deadly to pets. Make sure your kids don't try to feed your family pet a treat!



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RABIES

What is rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system. It can affect all mammals, including man. Rabies is a fatal disease once symptoms appear.

How is rabies spread?

Rabies is spread most often through the bite of a rabid animal. It can also be spread through a scratch from a rabid animal that breaks the skin or through exposure of an open wound or mucous membrane (eye, nose or mouth) to saliva from a rabid animal. In Pennsylvania, rabies has been found in raccoons, bats, skunks, foxes, cats, dogs and other animal species.



What are the symptoms of rabies?

Early symptoms in humans include irritability, headache, fever and, sometimes, itching or pain at the site of exposure. The disease progresses to paralysis, spasms of the throat muscles, convulsions, delirium and death. By the time any symptoms appear, rabies cannot be successfully treated.

The symptoms of rabies in animals may vary from a quiet depressed state to a furious, erratic behavior pattern.

How soon after exposure do symptoms appear?

The time between exposure and the onset of symptoms varies but is normally two to eight weeks in humans. However, incubation periods as short as four days to more than one year have been reported.

The incubation period for animals also varies. It may range from 12 days to a year after exposure, but is most common within 30 to 60 days.

What should you do if you are bitten by any animal?

The first step in rabies prevention is to promptly wash the wound with plenty of soap and warm water. See your doctor immediately for medical treatment. If circumstances of the exposure warrant, the rabies vaccine may be given.

The vaccine is a series of five shots given in the arm (or thigh for small children) on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28 after exposure.

What should be done with the biting animal?

If they are acting normally, dogs and cats may be observed for 10 days from the day of the bite. If the dog or cat is healthy after 10 days, it did not have rabies at the time of the bite.

Observation for 10 days is not an option for other than normally acting domestic dogs and cats. A veterinarian and local health authorities can also be consulted to advise further action. Wild animals should be humanely killed and the head taken to a laboratory for rabies testing. If an animal must be killed to prevent its escape, care should be taken not to damage the brain.

What can communities do to control rabies?

- All animals should be restrained and leashed when in public.
- Stray and ownerless dogs should be impounded.
- All dogs and cats should be registered, licensed and vaccinated.
- Mass vaccination clinics should be developed and supported.
- Wild animals should not be handled or kept as pets.

Where can I get more information about rabies?

Call Scott A. Cressman, B.S. SEO, Supervisor, Quakertown District of the Bucks County Health Department at 215-529-7355 or by email at sacressman@co.bucks.pa.us. You can also contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258) or visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC](http://www.cdc.gov) at <http://www.cdc.gov>



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SUMMER/FALL IS WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON

The Bucks County Department of Health West Nile Virus Control program is designed to help protect the residents of Bucks County from the spread of West Nile Encephalitis. The Department runs an integrated mosquito management program (IMM) that involves educational outreach to all municipalities and the general public. Larval and mosquito surveillance is conducted from April 1 through October 31. Mosquito breeding source reduction and control of the larval stages of mosquito breeding through biological pesticides is emphasized.

Through public telephone reporting, the Department also collects a limited number of certain species of dead birds to test for the presence of West Nile Virus. All bird sightings should be reported. Birds can be reported by calling the Department's Central Office at 877-477-4492, or the nearest district office.

Department staff respond to all written complaints regarding mosquito-breeding areas. To report a dead bird, or to request a complaint form for mosquito breeding you can find the nearest District Office by returning to the main Bureau page, or by phoning 1-877-477-4492.

West Nile Virus Facts

- West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by West Nile virus. It is most commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East.
- People may be infected with West Nile virus through the bite of a mosquito. Feeding on infected birds infects mosquitoes.



- West Nile virus cannot be transmitted from one person to another person. There is no evidence that birds can infect people. However, avoid handling live or dead birds unless gloves or other protection is used.
- People who live in areas where virus activity has been found are at risk for getting West Nile encephalitis. People who are 50 years or older are at greater risk for severe disease.
- Most infections are mild. Symptoms include fever, headache, and body aches, often with skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe infection might cause headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and, rarely, death.
- There is no specific treatment. In severe cases, intensive general supportive therapy is indicated, for example, hospitalization with intravenous fluids, breathing support if needed and prevention of secondary infections.
 - There is no vaccine against West Nile Encephalitis.
 - The incubation period (the length of time from infection until the first symptoms appear) is from 5 to 15 days in human beings.

How to Reduce Your Risk of Infection

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET.
- Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by getting rid of items that collect and hold water. At least once or twice a week, empty water from flower pots, pets' water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.

For more information about West Nile Virus, contact Phillip J. Smith, B.S. SEO, West Nile Program Manager, Vector Control for the Bucks County Health Department at 215-345-3334 or by email atpjsmith@co.bucks.pa.us

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FROM PERKASIE FIRE COMPANY

In an emergency, a few minutes can be the difference between life and death, which is why East Rockhill Township gave vocal support to Perkasie Fire Company's Unit 26 initiative.

The Unit 26 rescue truck is equipped with basic life-saving equipment, including an automatic external defibrillator (AED), and will be staffed by between two and four First Aid-, CPR-, and AED-trained members, including a certified Pennsylvania Department of Health First Responder or Emergency Medical Technician.

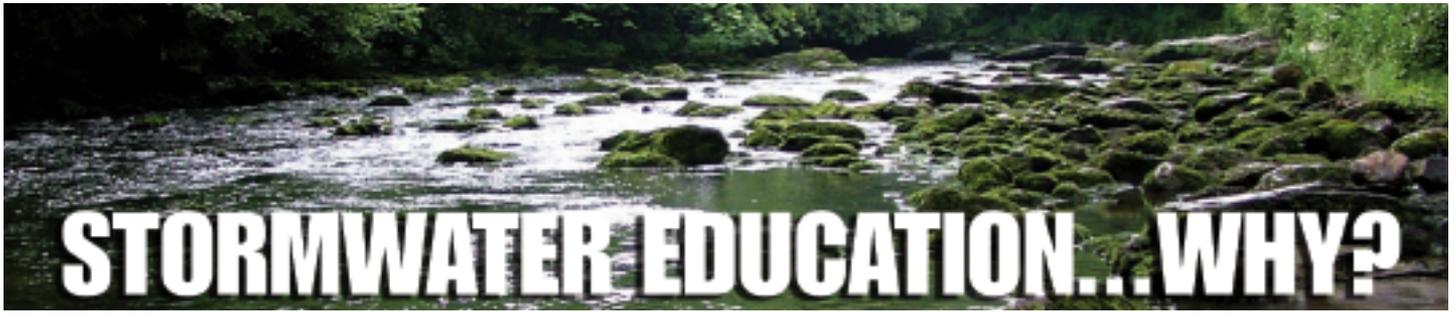
Now, when a 9-1-1 call for cardiac or respiratory arrest or choking is placed, Perkasie Fire Company's Unit 26 will be dispatched along with the nearest available ambulance. If Unit 26 arrives first on the scene, first responders will be able to begin emergency medical treatment before the ambulance arrives.



NEXT STEPS FOR WORK ON SHEARD'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE

With the design and permit review process nearly complete, the township soon will seek bids for the rehabilitation and fireproofing of **Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge**. We expect to approve a contract in late summer and begin work in the fall, with a goal to complete the work by the end of the year.

Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge spans the Tohickon Creek, which serves as the border between East Rockhill and Haycock Townships. A federal Community Development Block Grant awarded to both townships has provided funding for this joint project.



You may have noticed that every issue of the East Rockhill Township newsletter contains at least one piece of information related to stormwater run. In this issue, for example, the centerspread is dedicated to a crossword puzzle with a stormwater theme.

The **Environmental Protection Agency** has identified stormwater runoff as one of the most serious problems facing our ability to have a recurring supply of clean drinking water; polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. Storm water travels over land. Sometimes the ground absorbs storm water, and it never reaches streams, rivers, and lakes.

But some storm water traveling over land eventually drains into a system of conveyances known as a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). This system of conveyances includes catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, pipes, tunnels, or storm drains.

Many daily activities that we take for granted – from washing our cars to fertilizing our lawns to failing to pick up after our pets – contribute to the pollution that occurs when rain water drains through the MS4 system into our streams and creeks and, eventually, into our rivers and oceans. EPA wants our residents to understand what they can do to help solve the problem.

The EPA requires certain municipalities to address storm water quality. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has outlined a program for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's). In Pennsylvania, Phase I of the program focused on large and medium sized cities above 100,000 population (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allentown). East Rockhill is one of about 900 municipalities in Phase II of the program. We are required to educate the public as part of a 5-year permit program.

GREEN JACKETS YOUTH FOOTBALL HAS EXPANSION PLANS



The Pennridge Green Jackets, a not-for-profit youth football and cheerleading organization, has called Markey Park home for more than a decade. Due to the growth of their program, the Green Jackets would like to add two additional playing fields and extend an existing parking area.

The additional playing fields will permit them to rotate use of all three fields and avoid overuse of the existing field. It will also provide them with greater schedule flexibility to ensure improved traffic flow and parking. Currently, their facilities include a regulation size football field, a snack stand, field house, and practice fields leased from the township.

The Green Jackets submitted an engineered plan and have applied for permits to construct the additions. Residents interested in seeing the plan should make an appointment with the township manager by calling 215-257-9156.

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East Rockhill Township *Contact Information*

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

Telephone: 215-257-9156 • Fax: 215-257-1299 • www.eastrockhilltownship.org

Board of Supervisors:

David R. Nyman, Chairman
John R. Cressman, Vice-Chair
Gary W. Volovnik, Member

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors: Work Sessions are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Work Sessions are the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board: meetings are scheduled as needed

UCC Joint Appeal Board: Second Wednesday of month as needed at 7 p.m.

Recreation Committee: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Administrative Staff:

Township Manager: Anne W. Klepfer
Zoning Officer: Anne W. Klepfer
Township Secretary/Treasurer: Anne W. Klepfer
Administrative Assistant/Sewer: Marianne K. Morano
Building Inspector & Asst. Zoning Officer: Michael Gardner
Public Works Director: Steven D. Funk
Bookkeeper: Kim Mauer

Email Addresses:

staff@eastrockhilltownship.org
inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org
works@eastrockhilltownship.org
manager@eastrockhilltownship.org

Pennridge Regional Police Department:

1027 Ridge Road
Sellersville, PA 18960
Non Emergency Telephone: 215-257-5104
Emergency Telephone: 911

Tax Collector: Kathleen Percetti;

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 68, Perkasie, PA 18944
Telephone: 215-453-8866
Office hours: Wednesday, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
(Except: Nov., Dec., Jan. & Feb. by appointment only)
Office Address: 2037 Hill Road, Sellersville, PA 18960

Office Hours & Phone Numbers

Administrative Office:

Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
215-257-9156

Road and Public Services:

Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm
215-257-9156

Building and Zoning:

Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm 215-257-9156

Police Emergency: 24 Hours – 911

Police Non-Emergency:

215-257-5104

Fire Emergency: 911

Tax Collector: 215-453-8866

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The Township Supervisors would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents. The Township would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.



To Place An Ad Call Denise At Hometown Press • 267-966-1338 • DeniseOfHTP@yahoo.com

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