



# EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## FALL/WINTER 2016-2017

### Letter from the Editor



None of us like being told what to do. When we are young it's when to eat, when to sleep, you have to go to school, you have homework, there's a test to study for. The list goes on and on. As adults we have our bosses at work who manage our time, when to come to work and when to leave. What projects to work on and when they are due. And stay at home moms, well none of their time belongs to themselves. They are the most selfless of all of us. I can't even imagine those parents who have to do both. But it's a fact of life, there is always someone who is telling us what to do. Even if we are the owners of our own companies, because our customers expect us to be at their beck and call and always want it for less.

Well it's no different for municipalities. We have government mandates that must be followed upon pain of fines and sanctions. The government has given us three mandates that must be implemented in the next few years.

One you know about already. We haven't instituted it yet, but starting next year the mandatory three year septic tank pump out and inspection will begin. The second one is the MS4 Permit for which the Township must apply. The third is the mandatory update of our Floodplain Ordinance. All of these have to do with cleaner water going into the aquifer and into our streams and rivers and ultimately into our watersheds.

Most of this issue, along with upcoming issues, of this newsletter will concentrate on trying to explain these mandates, how they work, and what you can do to help the Township.

We are now on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/EastNottingham](http://www.facebook.com/EastNottingham)

If you have a question or a comment, please send an Email to the township at [zoningofficer@zoominternet.net](mailto:zoningofficer@zoominternet.net)

### Upcoming Government Mandates

#### **Mandatory Septic Tank Pump Out**

The Township is in the process of setting up the database and the plan is to sometime in 2017. The program will be instituted in three phases, one every year. Letters will go out to the first group of residents telling them that they need to either show proof of having had their septic tanks pumped out and inspected within the last three years, or will need to get this done within a certain timeframe, as yet to be determined.

Some residents have already sent in proof of their recent pump out and inspection.

### **MS4 Permit**

This one is a biggie. The Township has been designated as one that now is required to submit an MS4 Permit with the PA DEP by Sept 2017 and will become effective by March of 2018.

#### **What is MS4?**

A **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** is a publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances (i.e., ditches, curbs, catch basins, underground pipes, etc.) that is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater and that discharges to surface waters of the State.

Under the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments, the U.S. EPA developed new regulations to address storm water that might impact water quality. These new "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System" (MS4) regulations were set up in two Phases dependent upon population and are enforced by the U.S. EPA.

#### **MS4 Requirements**

To meet the new requirements each designated MS4 entity was required to obtain a permit from PA DEP. The initial permit period runs for five (5) years. The permit application required the development of a Storm Water Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) which is basically an action plan for the MS4 entity to institute six requirements, or minimum control measures (MCM):

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations Maintenance.

#### **Seasonal Tips for Fall/Winter Yard Care**

*(Green Guide to Clean Water for Residents by Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association)*

What can you, as residents, do to help keep our water clean?

#### **October: Plant trees in your yard and community**

- Fall is the best time for planting most trees and shrubs. The more trees and shrubs on your property, the more stormwater is controlled in your community. Consider volunteering to plant trees in your community with your tree commission, watershed association, or other conservation organization.
- Leave faded blossoms on perennials to mature into seed heads to support birds and other wildlife over the winter.
- Spread lime if the soil test indicates soil is too acidic for turf grass.

### **November: Harvest fallen leaves**

- Start a compost pile with fallen leaves. Mix in non-meat kitchen scraps or other “green” organic matter. Compost can be used next year to condition your soil so that it can absorb more rain water. Purchase a compost bin and attend a composting workshop hosted by your County Solid Waste Authority, Master Gardeners, or Pennsylvania Resources Council. Mow last, light leaf fall with a mulching mower and leave the fragments in the lawn as mulch for grass plants.
- Fertilize late fall with a slow-release, organic fertilizer to encourage root development, which will create a healthier, more resilient lawn next year.

### **December: Winterize rain barrel; relax**

- Take a well-earned break from yard work. Disconnect hoses from your rain barrel and store hoses to avoid damage from freezing. As the wintry mix of snow and rain events come along, monitor the melt runoff and see where more improvements might be made next year to keep the water on the property. Your neighbors will thank you and your community will benefit from reduced flooding, safer water, cleaner streams and a healthier environment.

### **January: Use safe de-icers; avoid lawn compaction**

- Avoid or minimize using rock salt as a deicer on walks and driveways to prevent polluted runoff from snow and ice melt. Shovel snow and spread sand. Substitute or mix in calcium magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, or non-chloride de-icing products, which are less harmful to streams and lawns.
- When possible, stay off your lawn when it is covered with ice or snow to avoid compaction of grass plants.

### **February: Test your soil**

- Healthy soil grows healthy turf which can absorb more rain water. Purchase a soil test kit from Penn State and submit soil samples from your lawn to determine the nutrients that may be lacking.

Go to <http://www.aasl.psu.edu>

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCbO5a5JZpk>

- Cut down stalks of ornamental and native warm season grasses left over the winter for bird habitat.

### **March: Plant a large stature tree**

- Large trees are great stormwater control. At maturity, they intercept over 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year. Their foliage and bark reduce runoff by intercepting rainfall, and their broad-leaf canopies also reduce the force of rain hitting the soil, reducing erosion. Where possible, plant a large stature broad-leaf tree such as an oak, maple, or black gum. Avoid pruning their crowns to allow full canopies to develop.
- This spring or fall explore converting a corner of your property to native warm season grasses. Their extensive roots of 3 to 7 feet deep enrich the soil and

absorb many times the amount of rainwater that turf grass does.

### **April: Leave grass clippings; mulch properly**

- Cut grass at 2½ to 3 inches tall. Mow often enough so that clippings are not longer than one-third (1/3) of the grass blade, so they can decompose easily into the soil.
- Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from lawn fertilization is frequently a pollutant to streams, fostering the growth of algae which deplete oxygen levels, harming fish. Spare your stream by avoiding spring fertilization, and leave your grass clippings on your lawn instead. Grass clippings supply between 25% and 50% of nitrogen and phosphorus needs.
- Mulched beds trap and infiltrate more rainwater than lawn or bare soil. Spread out any excess mulch away from trees and shrubs, making sure the tree's “flare” is exposed, and allowing it to decompose. Top off with a thin layer of fresh mulch, making sure the mulch is no deeper than 3” and does not touch the tree bark. Never spread fresh woodchips around trees or shrubs; their decomposition will harm plants.

Spring/ Summer Tips will be in the next newsletter

## **Flood Plain Ordinance**

These workshops have been going on with the Chester County Water Authority. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) oversees the National Regulations and has final say in compliance of the adopted ordinance. The DCED (Department of Community & Economic Development) is the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program, mainly because of its connection with all municipalities in the Commonwealth. There will be more on this in the next issue of the newsletter.

## **Upcoming Projects - PECO**

This information is provided by a PECO Fact Sheet which they prepared for us to share with our residents regarding the upcoming addition to the current substation on Union Square Road

## **Nottingham 2nd Transformer Substation Expansion Project - Enhancing Electric Reliability and Meeting Customers' Needs In Southern Chester County**

This fact sheet is intended to provide you with current information about an upcoming electric improvement project planned for your area. If you have any questions about this work, please contact Scott Neumann, PECO External Affairs Manager, at 610-725-7189.

### **Background:**

Electric substations convert high voltage electricity from transmission lines into lower voltages for distribution to homes and businesses. Projected growth and development in Southern Chester County is

expected to increase customer demand for electricity, which will require improved electric delivery service in the area.

#### **About the Project:**

- PECO is planning to invest more than \$30 million to expand and upgrade an existing transmission and distribution substation located at 138 Union Square Road, in East Nottingham Township.
- This expansion project will add and connect new electric transmission and distribution equipment, including a second power transformer, adjacent to the existing substation PECO property. This will provide enhanced reliable, redundant, and modernized electric service for customers throughout the area.
- PECO plans to begin preliminary and civil work at this substation location during the fall of 2016, and start electrical construction at the end of the year.
- The project is expected to be electrically completed by summer 2018.

#### **What does this mean for customers?**

- This project is designed to improve service for more than 6,000 customers in the area.
- The new expanded electric distribution substation will help meet customers' increased electricity needs and support future growth in Southern Chester County areas.
- PECO will work to minimize this project's impact on surrounding neighbors and communities.

## **Rural Living – Our Wildlife**

### **Living With Birds:**

#### **Get Ready, Get Set for a Safe Nesting Season**

Preparing for nesting season and remaining aware of our avian neighbors through nesting season can reduce risk we will orphan, injure, or kill baby birds as a result of our activity. In the northeastern U.S., "nesting season" starts in January with Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls and ends in late August when American Goldfinches nest in sync with natural seed supply. In between, other raptors, vultures, waterfowl and songbirds rear their young.

It is especially important to try to keep cats in (especially at night) between May and July because of fledglings that end up on the ground when learning to fly. Moms do feed their fledglings on the ground, so if you see a small feathered bird on the ground, observe before capturing and calling Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research to make sure mom is taking care of it.

*Some cautions to observe:*

- *Cap metal-lined chimneys, screen dryer vents and close unwanted building entry holes before winter's end.*
- *Curtail use of toxic pesticides that can sicken baby birds that are fed contaminated prey.*

If you find an injured or orphaned bird the telephone number to Tri-State is 1-302-737-9543. They have volunteer transporters.

This information came from one of our residents, Dianna Stuckey. Thank you, Dianna. Anyone who would like more information about Tri-State or how to better protect our wildlife, may contact PJ at the Township (610-932-9812) and she will put you in touch with Dianna.

## **Township Services**

### **Dumpster Day**

Fall Dumpster day will be on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **All dumpsters will be removed promptly at 3pm on Saturday. Will not take tires, propane bottles, oil base paint, or tree stumps.** Call the Township for further details.

### **Christmas Trees**

Did you know the Township will take your live Christmas trees and mulch them when you take them down? There is a drop off in back of the township garages.

## **Snow Plowing**

For information regarding snow plowing and a list of state roads please go to the township website, to this section of the fall 2015 newsletter. If for some reason this is not possible please contact the township and we will be happy to supply this information to you.

There are lots of how to survive the winter tips in that newsletter that you may also find helpful.

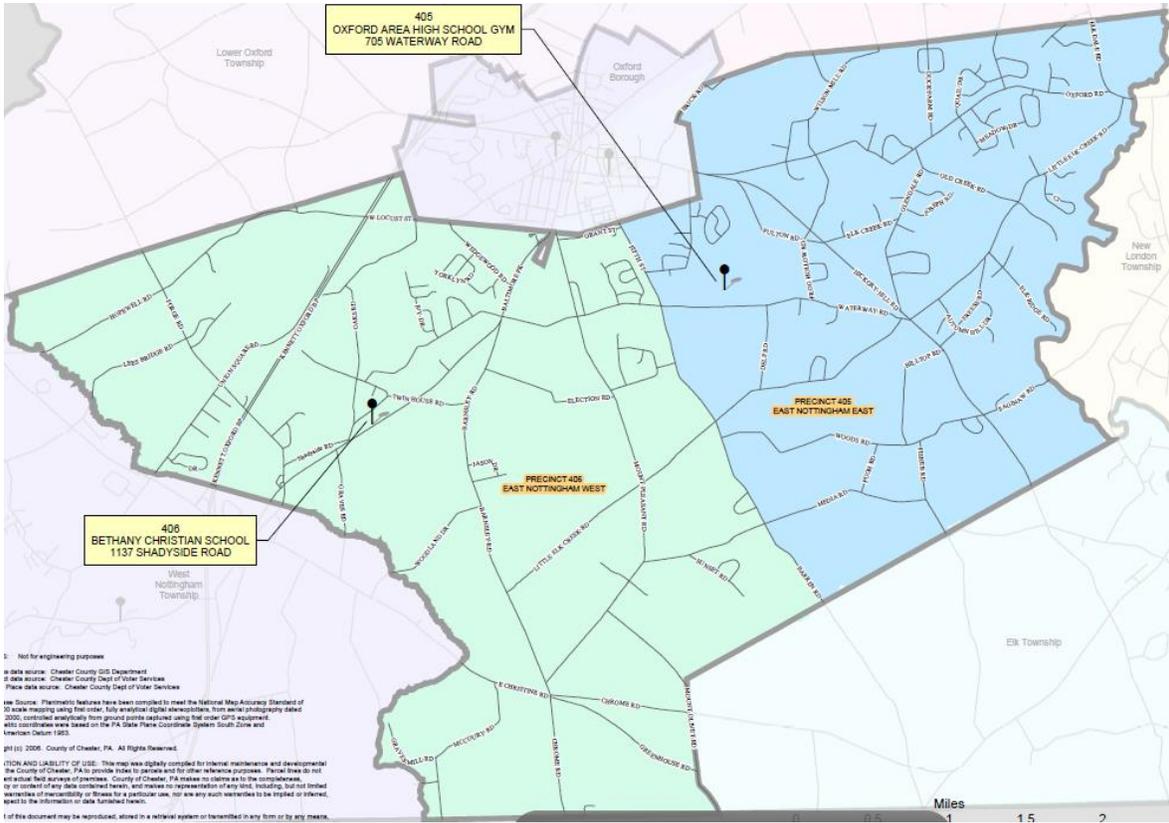
## **Election Time**

As everyone is aware we have a big election coming up. General Elections are always held on the second Tuesday in November, which this year is November 8<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who have not voted since ENT was split into two precincts. There is a copy of the map of ENT on the last page of this newsletter showing the two voting districts. Fifth Street and Barren Road is the dividing line.

Precinct 405 is East Nottingham East. It includes everyone to the east (right side on the map) of Fifth Street and Barren Road. Voters who live in this precinct vote at the Oxford Area High School, 705 Waterway Road.

Precinct 406 is East Nottingham West. This includes everyone to the west (left side on the map) of Fifth Street and Barren Road. Voters who live in this precinct vote at Bethany Christian School, 1137 Shadyside Road.

If you still have questions you can always call the township at (610)932-8494.



**East Nottingham Township**  
158 Election Road  
Oxford, PA 19363  
(610)932-8494



Visit us on the Web  
[www.eastnottingham.org](http://www.eastnottingham.org)

Board of Supervisors meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month.

All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Township Building.

**THE HAUNTED PARK**  
900 W. LOCUST STREET  
OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> & 15<sup>TH</sup>  
6:30 TO 10:00 PM  
Details on ENT's Website  
& Facebook Page

Prst Std  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 8  
Oxford, PA 19363

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