



# EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2007

Staff: **Beth Cartwright** **Margie Ronallo** **PJ Scheese** **Dianna Stuckey** **Betty Summers**

### Letter from the Staff



Halloween should be a fun time for all - a chance for parents to spend time with their children making costumes, visiting neighbors, and eating delicious snacks. If parents and kids follow a few simple rules, Halloween will be a howling good time for everyone.

#### Tips for Adults (before heading out)

- Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on outside lights.
- Remove objects from the yard and sidewalk that might present a hazard to costumed visitors.
- Make sure costumes allow for free movement and good vision.
- Consider make-up instead of masks. If using a mask be sure the wearer can see out of the sides and bottom as well as straight ahead. Eliminate trailing or dragging parts of a costume.
- Eat dinner before the adventure. This makes it easier for kids to resist eating the treats while out.
- Decide what adult (or older teen) will accompany the trick-or-treaters.
- Agree on a route. Make sure it's not too long. Avoid crossing major intersections.
- Drive slowly all evening and watch for all creatures, great and small.

#### Tips for Kids

- Carry a flashlight or glow-stick.
- Stick to the agreed-on route. No wandering off through yards or playgrounds.
- Stay with the adult in charge.
- Never enter a stranger's house or car.
- Cross the street only at intersections; be sure to look both ways.
- Don't eat the treats until checked by an adult.

#### Back Home—Together and Safe

- Have an adult check over the treats, looking for signs of any possible tampering with wrappers. Pay special attention to "homemade" treats. Throw away treats that look suspicious or of uncertain origin.
- Talk about the fun had by all and anything that was worrying or scary.
- Hold a treat trade; let trick-or-treaters swap for their favorites.

### Townships Today: News from PSATS

In the May primary, Pennsylvania voters were asked if they would be willing to pay higher local income taxes in exchange for reduced property taxes. Across the state, in school district after school district, the answer was a resounding "no" to Act 1, a.k.a. the Taxpayer Relief Act.

For years, Pennsylvanians and politicians have been clamoring for true property tax reform. However, the results of the May primary made it clear that many voters want assurances of lower taxes for the long haul before they shift the financial burden from homeowners to wage earners. That means that until something better comes along, the real estate tax, despite its controversial nature, will most likely be the primary vehicle for generating revenues for local governments and school districts statewide. In Pennsylvania, property taxes help to fund services provided by school districts, counties, and municipalities, including the township in which we live.

Your tax bill is based on a combination of your assessed property value and the millage rates established by your township supervisors, county commissioners, and school board directors. One mill is equal to 1/1000 of a dollar, which is one way of saying that you, as a property owner, will pay \$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable value of your land and buildings.

The property tax continues to be a leading source of revenue for our communities and schools. In fact, the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) reports that the real estate tax generated a total of \$9.8 billion in 2000 and accounted for 67% of the taxes collected in the commonwealth. These revenues have helped to pay for such things as textbooks, recreational programs, local road and bridge repairs, and police protection.

But Pennsylvania's townships get a much smaller piece of this funding pie than their county and school district counterparts. Under state tax laws, school districts may levy up to 25 mills in taxes and, depending on their classification, counties can set their rates as high as 30 mills. Meanwhile, townships are only authorized to impose a maximum of 14 mills (ENT currently has a zero millage rate) in property taxes. These rate caps were enacted to protect homeowners from outrageous tax burdens.

Few taxpayers may be aware of an exemption in the law that allows school boards to levy



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unlimited additional millage to pay salaries, benefits, and debts. Township and counties, on the other hand, must get court approval to impose an additional 5 mills in taxes, if necessary.

It's not surprising that in 2000, real estate taxes accounted for 97% of county revenue, 85% of school district revenues, and only 31% of municipal tax revenues, according to DCED. However, despite their limited financial resources, township supervisors continue to face pressure from residents to improve and expand services.

## Rural Living



It's that time of year when family gardens are starting to wind down. One of the plants that are still going strong is the zucchini plants and some of them are getting big too fast. Here are two recipes that will use some of the larger zucchini plants, just remember to seed the plants before grating the flesh.

### Zucchini Appetizers



3 C grated zucchini	1 c Bisquick
½ c copped onion	½ c Parmesan cheese
2 Tbs. Parsley	1/2 tsp oregano
½ tsp salt	Dash pepper
1 minced clove garlic	½ C oil
4 eggs beaten	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 13 X 9 inch pan. Mix all ingredients. Spread in pan. Bake until golden, about 25 minutes. Cut into pieces (about 4 dozen).

### Zucchini Bread



2 C all-purpose flour	1 ½ tsp salt
3 tsp cinnamon	1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp baking powder	1 C oil
3 eggs	1 tsp vanilla
1 ½ C sugar	3 C shredded zucchini
½ C chopped walnuts (optional)	½ C raisins (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 2 small loaf pans. Sift together flour, salt, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder. In a large bowl whisk together oil, eggs, vanilla, sugar. Stir into flour mixture and any remaining ingredients. Divide into prepared pans. Bake for 55-60 minutes until cake tester come out clean. Cool on wire racks to room temperature. This bread freezes very well.

A fall harvest can bring just as many joys as a summer harvest can, so enjoy these recipes.

As winter approaches, out come the heaters, electric blankets, and beautiful holiday decorations. But as we retreat into our homes to brave the cold and enjoy the holiday season, remember nobody wants to deal with a fire in their home. It can happen so quickly, but if your family prepares a plan beforehand, you can avoid a situation that could destroy your life. Here are some quick tips for protecting your home against fire this winter.

#### ◆ Have a Fire Escape Plan

By practicing your escape routes, you greatly enhance your chances of getting out without injury. Ensure that your windows are not stuck and that all screens can be removed quickly and easily by your children. If you think of fire escape practices as fun family time that also serves a very important purpose, your kids will enjoy them and remember what to do!

#### ◆ Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors are Key

The presence of smoke detectors on every floor of your home will decrease your chance of getting caught in fire. Carbon Monoxide detectors should be in the area of the bedrooms. You should test your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries at least once every month and change them every year. Also consider replacing your entire smoke alarm system every ten years, as the malfunctioning of older smoke detectors is one of the top causes of fire-related injuries.

#### ◆ Fire Prevention

Be aware of all potentially flammable materials and heated objects in your home. These may include clothes dryers, furnaces or space heaters, fireplaces, kitchen appliances, etc. Know the location of all of these items and be sure to know when they are on and off. Overloaded electrical systems, frayed wires and extension cords, and blown fuses represent just a few of the electrical hazards that commonly start fires.

Aside from hazardous materials and objects, there are also other liabilities to be aware of. These include cigarettes, candles and, last but certainly not least, your children. A fourth of all fires are accidentally caused by children. The main piece of advice to remember is simply to remain vigilant. Having a precautionary mindset will enable you to better safeguard your house against fire.

The ENT Historic Commission is requesting information of our township's historic one-room schools. We are trying to find pictures of the various schools that we could copy. Also, memorabilia that could be shown in the townships display cases would be great. We need your help. Please call the township office - Pat Brady at 610-932- 8494 or Doris Howett at 610-932-4326 with your historic information!

## Home Fire Safety

## 2007 A Busy Year for OASA

**2007** was a very busy year for the Oxford Area Sewer Authority. Percy Reynolds and I, your OASA Representatives, would like to share some of our successes with you.

We are moving forward with the Osborne Lagoon project. Once completed, the authority will have met an obligation to a consent order from the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection. We have acquired additional spray field capacity to allow us to better manage our spray field operations.

Through the efforts of our Executive Director, Ed Lennex, we have begun the process of hiring our own employees and are beginning to install the infrastructure needed for the OASA to function without the assistance of member municipalities.

We managed to complete an agreement with developers called "The Get Well Plan". This agreement provides for the expansion of our treatment plant, and expands our storage lagoons and provides additional spray fields. This expansion project is a result of the demand for growth in our service area. Best of all, the expansion will take place at no cost to existing rate payers. The people that are creating the need are paying to meet that need.

The Get Well Plan, the needs analysis of the member municipalities, along with other data, made up the ACT 537 for the OASA. The ACT 537 law requires the authority to submit ongoing plans as to how the authority will meet the sewage needs of the community. This is an ongoing never ending process. The exact steps in the process are specified by law.

Over the last few years, the OASA has worked on the ACT 537 plan at our regular public meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Through the hard work of the sewer authority board, our Executive Director and the member municipalities and their staff, we were able to complete the ACT 537 process and get our plan submitted to the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection. Once our currently submitted plan is approved, the process starts all over for the next 5 year plan to meet the needs as outlined by the member municipalities.

It has been said that once the ACT 537 plan is approved that the sewer authority would be running pipes all over East Nottingham Township. The sewer authority will only allow pipes to be installed in the designated sewer service area as specified by the ENT Board of Supervisors.

There are over 4000 registered voters in ENT, but we very seldom see anyone from ENT at our meetings. Percy and I would like to invite you to attend a meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM in the East Nottingham Township building. Come out to a meeting and learn how the authority works. There is a standing item on our agenda to allow time for citizens to ask questions. If you do have questions, but can not attend a meeting, you can call Percy or myself through the township secretary or call Ed Lennex at the sewer authority. Any of us will be happy to answer your questions.

Joe Scheese  
East Nottingham Township OASA Representative

## Conserve Water!

The average American uses 60 gallons of water in the house every day! Do you know how much water you are using? Here are a few statistics:

- Kitchen faucet: 3–5 gallons a minute
- Tub bath: 50 gallons, if full
- Dishwasher: 15–25 gallons
- Shower: 5–10 gallons a minute
- Toilet flushing: 5–7 gallons
- Washing machine: 35 gallons

Why save water? Because clean drinking water is a vanishing resource. By consciously cutting down on water use, one can also save money on the water/sewer bill. As an added bonus, energy bills decrease as the amount of hot water used decreases.

Repair all leaking faucets and pipes. Don't let water run when preparing meals. Take more showers than baths and make them shorter showers. When purchasing water-using appliances, be sure to look for water-saving models.



## Election Information



The general election is Tuesday, November 6, 2007, to vote for candidates for the township Board of Supervisors and the Oxford Area School District School Board members.

Two seats on the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot. The candidates are:

**Seat 1:** Dave Shelton, Republican  
Christine Bennett, Democrat

**Seat 2:** Mike Miller won the primary write-in campaign and will run unopposed for the two-year term seat he currently occupies.

Please take the time to vote.

## Township Services



Fall Clean Up will be held Friday, October 19, from 7 am to 6pm, and Saturday, October 20, from 7am to 3pm at the township building. Appliances are accepted. No tires, hazardous materials, batteries or propane tanks. For additional clean up options, SECCRA has recycling containers at the township building.

Christmas tree recycling begins the day after Christmas. There is a designated drop off area behind the township building.

*The Bayberry plant grows in the New England coastal area. It is rarely found far inland and seems to thrive close to the sea in the rocky soil. Early American settlers harvested and rendered the wax from the fruit of the plant in the late fall. The resulting supply of wax was never great so the candles were reserved for burning during the Yuletide. Legend has it, that the burning of these candles during this happy season would bring wealth and good luck throughout the New Year. May this legend come true for you--may wealth and good luck make yours a truly Happy New Year? It is said that .... Bayberry Candles, Burned to the Socket, Bring luck to the House and Gold to the Pocket.*



*The Newsletter Staff wishes all ENT residents a fun and safe holiday season.*

*Watch for the next issue in January 2008!*

## Fall 2007

### East Nottingham Township Newsletter

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2007 Meeting Dates

Supervisors	Tuesday, Oct. 9
Planning Commission	Monday, Oct. 22
	Monday, Nov. 26
	Tuesday, Nov. 13
	Monday, Dec. 10
	Monday, Dec. 17

All meetings are at 7 pm at the Twp. Bldg.

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[www.eastnottingham.org](http://www.eastnottingham.org)



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