



EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005



Editor: PJ Scheese Staff: Anne Broomall Beth Cartwright Margie Ronallo Dianna Stuckey Betty Summers

Letter from the Staff



Did you complain about your real estate taxes going up this year? Probably, but did you vote in May's primary election where a school board seat from East Nottingham Township was included? Probably not. Less than 12% of the eligible voters in the township turned out for the primary election. Yet, this person will influence the tax increases for the next four years, along with the quality of education our children receive.

Does the rate of housing growth in the township concern you? Again, probably, but did you know a space on the Board of Supervisors for the township was also included in the primary election? Again, this person will help shape the future of this township for the next six years! The Board of Supervisors is the township's legislative body. It sets policy, enacts local ordinances, levies taxes, and pays bills all with your tax money.

Election Day is coming soon and we thought the Newsletter would be an opportunity to remind everyone. Although this year is not a presidential election, it is still very important to township residents. The most significant, most personal votes you cast are those that control who is elected into local offices: township officials, school board members, all the way up to members of the state legislature. These officials are unique because they are accessible to an average citizen. Your phone calls, letters and e-mail mean more to them than they will to a congressional senator, representative or the president. We all remember the long voting lines of the 2004 General Election when 72% of registered voters turned out to voice their opinion. We voted for a president who will probably affect our daily lives much less than our local government. Do you even know the names of the candidates on the ballot? Well here they are:

- **Board of Supervisors**

Samuel A Goodley, Jr., the incumbent, is running for re-election. Leo M. Levandowski is his challenger. A Supervisor influences policies that affect everyday living. It is our opportunity, our obligation, to voice our opinions regarding policy, through our votes.

- **Oxford Area School Board Region III**

Richard Nelson is running unopposed. This is the most influential body of government when it comes

to our taxes. We all should pay more attention to the decisions being made at the Oxford Area School Board meetings.

- **Township Tax Collector**

Dee Thompson is running unopposed. There is one correction, and apology, from our Summer 2005 newsletter where we misspelled her name. Sorry Dee.

We urge you all to make a point of getting to know the candidates. What are their basic philosophies? Where do they stand on issues of importance to you? Talk to the candidates themselves, they live close by. These are the people who will guide our township into the future. Do not allow yourselves to be blindly led by people you know nothing about. And do not let someone else make your decision for you. Every vote counts! Do not ever think that a single vote does not make a difference. Last year the Open Space Referendum passed with a thirteen (13) vote margin. That is not a lot.

Take an active role in your township. The very least any of us can do is vote on November 8. The last day you can register is October 11. Registration forms can be picked up at any Post Office or at the Township Building. Absentee Ballots are available for anyone who applies before November 1. Find more information about the election at the county's website, www.chesco.org, under the Voter Services Section, or call Voters Registration at (610)344-6410.

Thank you in advance from all of us for taking the time to get involved.



If you have a question or a comment, please send your letter to the editor at enteditor@zoominternet.net!

Proposed Subdivisions & Land Developments



- **Add another 172 new houses to the list!**

Wicklow, a newly proposed subdivision, will border part of Forge Road and Baltimore Pike, and is adjacent to Route One South. It consists of two tax parcels (totaling approximately 74 acres), the Freese and Featherman properties, in an area behind the Wawa. The developer will absorb the cost of installing public sewer lines north, up Baltimore Pike through the Commercial and Industrial districts, to the proposed development. The preliminary plans show Wicklow to be built as two separate neighborhoods. One will be a

traditional single family home development. The other will be an age restricted community, also single family homes.

This is the first subdivision that is going to use Transferable Development Rights (TDRs). These TDRs are coming from a farm in the R1 district, where other farms have been permanently protected from development under the county's Agricultural Preservation Program.

It means that this farm can never be subdivided into a residential community. However, it does give the Wicklow developer the ability to increase the number of houses put on those 74 acres through the Retained Open Space Development (ROSD) Ordinance.

Adding this subdivision to the numbers, we have an approximate total of between **1255** and **1281** proposed houses waiting to be built. For information regarding a list of all proposed subdivisions in ENT contact the editor.

Explanation of Acronyms

Certain acronyms will be referred to in the newsletter from time to time especially when referring to township policies and procedures. In order to help you get the most from this information, here are some definitions.

The first may be simple, but ENT is for East Nottingham Township. The explanations below are to help you understand some of the housing development facts given above and are taken directly from East Nottingham Township's Zoning Ordinance:

Transferable Development Rights (TDR) - "East Nottingham Township, in establishing a transferable development rights (TDR) program, intends to offer the owners of identified land in the primarily agricultural areas of the Township an opportunity to permanently preserve that land and the rural community character associated with it. In creating the TDR program, the Township has designated the R-1 Agricultural-Residential zoning district as the area where farmland preservation is most critical and where alternatives to other developed uses of the land should be made available. In so doing, the Township also has determined locations that are deemed appropriate for development at higher densities and intensities through the use of TDRs, based on their location, existing level of development, and/or availability of road access, water supply, and sewage facilities. The TDR program is designed to enable owners of prime agricultural land and adjacent properties within the R-1 District to benefit from the development value of their land without converting the land to development use, and to enable developers of land elsewhere in the Township to achieve higher densities or intensities of land use than otherwise available through the base

zoning provisions by purchasing the requisite development rights to do so."

Retained Open Space Development (ROSD); a/k/a Cluster Ordinance - "The provisions in this article are intended to achieve residential site designs on selected tracts within East Nottingham Township that retain a significant portion of the buildable land as permanently protected open space through reduced lot area and other dimensional requirements and the opportunity to construct a mix of dwelling types. Under these terms, the Township seeks to create effective buffers between new residential neighborhoods and work farmland on and adjoining those tracts. The retained open space development also is established to maximize the advantage of off-site sewage and off-site water facilities in shaping efficient land use. In combination, the results are meant to help the Township protect its agricultural base and rural character."

For further explanation the ENT Zoning Ordinance can be purchased at the Township Building for \$25.00. A color copy of the current Zoning Map can be purchased for \$2.00.

Rural Living



The impact of growth in our township and surrounding townships is surely having an impact on our landfills and recycling centers. We have become such a throw-away society sometimes we do not pay much attention to some of the items tossed into that trash bin. Do those of us who replace our computers and cell phones ever consider recycling them? These are the dangerous items to throw into landfills because they leach hazardous materials, like mercury and lead, into nearby water supplies. Below are some suggestions how to recycle these items. It takes some extra effort, but we believe it is well worth the time.

Computers: Give to charity. If you have a computer or a component that still works, contact Share the Technology at www.sharetechnology.org. They will match you with a nonprofit organization that needs equipment. If the computer *is not* working, take it to a recycling center or a traveling electronics recycling fair. To locate a center or fair, visit the web site for Earth 911 at www.earth911.org.

Cell Phones: There are national programs like Donate a Phone and Collective Good who accept used phones. You can also find these at Earth 911. The Oxford Borough Police Department and Neighborhood Services accept cell phones for donation to those that do not have phone service to contact 911. Phones must have a charger.

Printer Ink Cartridges: Branches of OfficeMax, Staples and other office supply stores have

on-site drop-off recycle bins. Also check the local churches and schools. Some have drop-off boxes, and a donation for each cartridge collected and recycled can go to the school of your choice. Radio Shack also has drop-off centers for used batteries. For other items that are in good condition, but you just do not need anymore, consider selling them on SECCRA's free swap website www.seccra-swap.org where you can list the item for sale.

Recycling takes extra effort, but in the beginning so did separating newspapers, bottles and plastic. This is the *only* world we have, so let us each try to do our small part to help preserve it.

As the holidays approach, celebrate with your friends and family by sharing this wonderful recipe from our Amish neighbors.



Friendship Cake
(Do not refrigerate batter!)



Day 1: To make your own starter from scratch, mix 1 cup each of flour, sugar and milk in a bowl, cover lightly.

Day 2: Relax

Days 3-4: Mixture is bubbling, please stir!

Day 5: Add 1 cup each of flour, sugar and milk. Stir well!

Day 6: Relax

Days 7-8: Mixture is bubbling, please stir

Day 9: Yup! Needs to be stirred one last time!

Day 10: Add 1 cup each of flour, sugar and milk. Stir well!

To share your cake starter with friends, take out 3 cups of starter and put 1 cup into each of 3 small containers. Your friends need to put it into a larger container & start with Day 2. Give to 3 friends with a set of these entire instructions and include a personal note of friendship. To finish the cake, add the following to the starter add:

2/3 cup oil	1 cup sugar	1 ½ tsp cinnamon
3 eggs	2 tsp vanilla	2 tsp baking powder
2 cups flour	½ tsp salt	1 ½ tsp baking soda

For variety, add apples, nuts, raisins, dates, chocolate chips, cocoa, drained fruit cocktail or up to 4 bananas. Bake in a floured and greased bundt pan at 350 for 40-50 minutes.

Optional: Add frosting or sprinkle with powdered sugar – or combine 1 tsp cinnamon and 3 tbsps sugar and sprinkle before baking.

Waterway Road & Fifth Street Intersection



You may be wondering why the new section of Waterway Road at Fifth Street has yet to be opened. Well, there's a story behind that. The realignment of Waterway Road at the Fifth Street intersection was discussed during the Land Development Planning stage between ENT's Planning Commission and the Oxford Area School Board's representatives. During the spring and summer of 2002, at the regular ENT Board of Supervisor and Planning Commission meetings, this issue was discussed at length. Both the Township and the School Board agreed that the safety of our children is paramount. The School Board assigned \$250,000 to the township toward the realignment, fixing the Little Elk Creek Road and

Hickory Hill Road intersection, installing a traffic light at Waterway Road and Baltimore Pike, and other road improvements relating to the new high school.

The township had to first acquire the land for the Waterway Road/Fifth Street intersection, which took some time to negotiate. In the summer of 2004, the School District called Verizon and PECO to hook up electricity to the new school. Verizon replaced the small poles with larger utility poles, so they could hook up phone lines, and PECO could hook up the power, to the new high school.

This part of Fifth Street has been traded to the people whose property was acquired for the realignment of Waterway Road. This means the poles that are currently supplying power to the school, and homes in that area, need to be removed. That property is no longer a right-of-way for the township. It belongs to the people who made the land exchange with the township so the Waterway Road could be realigned.

It will cost approximately \$133,000 for the poles, and all that entails, to be installed along the realigned road. The ENT Board of Supervisors does not think ENT taxpayers should bear the full burden of this cost. If the School Board picks up the tab, this cost is effectively shared by residents across the entire school district.

The reason for the road realignment is to create a safer intersection for all vehicles, but especially the school buses. In the interest of our children's safety, the ENT Supervisors voted to issue a check to Verizon for about \$65,000 to get the project started. It is their hope that the School Board will help the township solve this very important issue as quickly as possible. To this date, the township has yet to receive the necessary additional funds to finish this project from the School District.

Oxford Area Sewer Authority



The OASA consists of four member municipalities. Lower Oxford, East Nottingham Township, West Nottingham Township and the Borough of Oxford have combined their efforts to expand the area's sewer system. Each municipality has two representatives on the OASA. ENT's are Percy Reynolds and Joe Scheese.

The main focus of the OASA currently is to develop an Act 537 Plan, the Official Sewage Facilities Plan for the area. It determines the wastewater needs of the area and evaluates alternatives to address those needs. Each township determines its specific needs and combines them to come up with a 0-5 year plan, and then a 5-10 year plan for the participating area. ENT is planning for approximately 1700 Equivalent Dwelling Units, or EDUs, in its 0-5 year plan. An EDU

is the amount of waste water a single household of 3-4 people generates, about 220 gallons a day. The plan should allow the equivalent of about 1700 more households to be hooked up to public sewers.

It is important to note that the 0-5 year timeframe will not start until after the Plan goes into effect. Once that happens, which is estimated to be no sooner than spring of 2006, every septic tank will have to be pumped at least every three years. This has been mandated by the Chester County Health Department, who is currently keeping track of septic systems as they are being pumped. Another important issue for the OASA is the acquisition of land for spray fields. No less than sixty acres is the estimated requirement to service the area's needs.

The OASA has recently hired a new Executive Director, Edward Lennex. He comes to us from the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, where he was the Financial Director for the past 17 years. His goal is to provide the OASA with the best alternative available that would place the least burden on the current rate payers. This scenario is similar to what Ed faced in Lancaster. He feels his experience will help to develop a solution that will be applicable to the situation in our community. The



OASA hopes that Mr. Lennex will keep them on track and moving ahead to service the Oxford area in the future.

For more information on Act 537 go to www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt.

New Ordinance

Ordinance 5-2005, establishing regulations concerning open burning, was approved at the September Supervisors meeting. Copies are available at the Township Building for a nominal fee.

Township Services



Fall Clean Up will be held Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22 at the Township Building. Appliances are accepted. No tires, hazardous materials, batteries or propane tanks.

Christmas tree recycling begins the day after Christmas. Residents who wish to participate are asked to drop off trees in the designated area behind the Township Building.



The Newsletter Staff wishes all ENT residents a fun and safe holiday season. Watch for the next issue in January 2006!

Fall 2005

East Nottingham Township Newsletter

2005 Meeting Dates
 Supervisors
 Monday, Oct. 10
 Monday, Oct. 24
 Planning Commission
 Monday, Nov. 28
 Monday, Dec. 26

Visit Us on the Web
www.eastnottingham.org



Tel: 610-932-8494
 secretary@zoominternet.net
 Contact your newsletter staff at
 editor@zoominternet.net

East Nottingham Township
 158 Election Road
 Oxford, PA 19363

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