



Williams Township Times

Fall 2009

Volume 17, Issue 3

Veterans Memorial Committee

In consideration of those who have served our country in the Armed Forces, we will be celebrating Veteran's Day on November 11, 2009 at 11:00am. The ceremony will be held in front of our Veterans Memorial located at the Williams Township Municipal Complex, 655 Cider Press Road and will include a welcoming statement from a Township Supervisor, prayer, and short presentation by Ron Hineline. The ceremony should last no longer than thirty minutes. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Municipal Building meeting room.

A note from the Public Works Director

I would first personally like to say THANK YOU to all the residents for their support over the last 14 months while I was away on Military leave, stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. It was a great experience, but nothing like home! I've been back to work about three months now and I'm starting to catch up on everything I've missed and the changes that have taken place while being gone. I'm looking forward to working with all of you and will try to answer any questions or concerns you have with the public works department.

With the fall season upon us we will be out cleaning gutters and drainage pipes along the Township roads. We will concentrate on the roads that are scheduled for surface maintenance in 2010 first, then if time and weather permits we will do others as needed. We will also be out trimming brush along the roads. Please remember we must maintain a clear and safe passage for vehicles. If water is allowed to puddle in the roadway, or tree's and brush hang out into the roadway they both can cause an accident and must be prevented the best we can. This is why we must scrape and clear the edges of the road and in some cases this means along your front/side yard within the road right-of-way to allow for proper water runoff and clear passage. This work is necessary and I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Please check the Williams Township web site and click on the Public Works tab for any updates or information.

Michael Strawn, Director of Public Works

Township Office

655 Cider Press Rd—Ph# 610-258-6788
Open: Mon– Fri, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Board of Supervisors

Sally Hixson: shixson@rcn.com
Robert Doerr: rjdoerrco1@rcn.com
Fred Mebus: fmebus@fast.net

Deborah Patterson,
Township Manager/Treasurer
610-258-6088
Email: dpatterson@williamstwp.org

Melody Ashmore, Township Secretary
610-258-8587
Email: mashmore@williamstwp.org

Richard Adams,
Zoning Officer/Code Administrator
610-258-0522
Email: radams@williamstwp.org

Katherine Faubert,
Assistant Township Secretary
Email: kfaubert@williamstwp.org

Jacqueline Warner, Tax Collector
484-541-1056
Email: jwarner220@rcn.com

Public Works

2540 Morgan Hill Road—Ph# 610-258-0172
Michael Strawn, Director of Public Works
Email: mstrawn@williamstwp.org

State Police

Dial 911 for Emergencies.
610-258-0816 for non-emergencies

Township Engineer

David Harte, PE – 610-865-6543
Email: harteengineering@aol.com

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Joseph Black, 610-258-6788



Mary Meuser Library

For all programs please call the Library at 610-258-3040 for pre-registration or information

Preschool Storytime

Preschool Storytimes are held Thursday and Friday at 10:30am. Each session is informally designed around a concept and a story theme. Fall themes include robots, head-to-toe, birds and more. Each story hour includes stories, finger plays and music circle time. Once a month the library offers a music hour in the preschool Storytime slot.



Afterschool Activity Hour for K-4th grade

Tuesdays 4:00pm

The first week of each month is devoted to a book discussion. Other weeks are devoted to art, science and theater activities.

Game Day

Thursdays 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Open play time with games offered for kids to come and play.

House Number Ordinance Requirements

Please be aware that many homes in Williams Township have not complied with House Identification Ordinance 2002-9. This Ordinance **requires** all Williams Township residents to prominently display identification numbers which mark the location of the residences and businesses for Fire, Police, Ambulance and other personnel involved in providing emergency services. This is **necessary** in order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Williams Township. Throughout Williams Township there are many homes not visible from the road, which are not properly identified. We are all concerned about this situation, because a lack of proper identification makes it very difficult for emergency services to respond to your home. If you are interested, we have numbers and signs available for sale at the Municipal Office at a cost of \$10.00. The numbers are reflective and will aid in properly identifying your home. We ask all Williams Township residents and businesses to please help us and we thank you for your anticipated cooperation and help.

Drop-Off Recycling Facility

Our drop-off recycling facility at 2300 Morgan Hill Road is always open. Feel free to drop off your separated newsprint, cardboard, aluminum, bi-metal cans, glass, and plastic labeled #1 and #2 on the bottom. Please place your items in the appropriate bins. When you place your glass into the designated bins, please take your glass out of the plastic bag you brought it in and do not leave your plastic bags at the Recycling Facility. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR TRASH AT THIS FACILITY.**



Recreation Board

Our grant is in place and the playground equipment has been ordered and received. Within the next month or so you will see a big change in the Raubsville Park. The old equipment will be removed and a new shredded rubber carpet and new playground equipment will be installed. We can't wait!

There will be a new addition to the walking trail at the Municipal Park. Seven Life Trail activity stations will be installed.

Also, the basketball lights have been repaired. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Athletic Association

Our football program is almost over. The teams have made the playoffs.

The cheerleading competition was held at our field. There were 498 participants and the day was a success all the way around. Thank goodness that the weather was great.

Basketball will be starting the middle of November. Games are played at the elementary school gym. Come out and cheer the kids on!

Our meetings are the last Monday of the month in the Community building. We are always looking for new members.

Land Preservation Board

The Land Preservation Board would like to remind you that the deadline for filing a 2009 application for agricultural conservation easement under the Northampton County Farmland preservation program is December 15, 2009.

The application forms are being mailed by the County to all landowners who are registered in the Agricultural Security Area (Act 43). If you did not receive an application and are interested in receiving one, please contact the Township Municipal office or the Land Preservation Board for a copy.

Remember that landowners do not need to apply to preserve an entire tax lot parcel. They can identify a section or sector of their property they wish to have included in the county's Farmland Preservation Program. This gives farmers and landowners more flexibility in identifying parts of their property they would like to conserve. And they can preserve as little as 25 acres, and under special circumstances, even less acreage.

The current State funded minimum acreage is 50 acres. The current County funded minimum acreage is 25 acres or only 10 acres if the proposed conservation is next to an already preserved tract. The county funded program is especially attractive for smaller first time applicants.

Although a County funded and administered program, the Land Preservation Board members are available to help answer questions. The Township also offers financial support in covering some of the administrative costs of conserving farmland.

With only a few weeks left to apply, we encourage you to consider applying to the program this year. Even if it is for the 10 or 25 acre minimum. Please feel free to contact Jerry Steele at 610-252-2076 if the LPB can be of assistance. Maria Bentzoni, the County's Program Administrator is also available to personally meet with potential applicants.



A Note from your Sewage Enforcement Officer

PREVENTION

With all the things that can go wrong in your septic system, you may be wondering what you can do to prevent problems from happening. Fortunately, a number of preventive and corrective measures can be undertaken to ensure that your septic system functions properly. Here are several reminders:

- Take every opportunity to conserve water in the home
- Have your septic tank pumped the day before you leave for vacation every other summer.
- Do not use, or at least severely curtail, the use of a garbage grinder in the home.
- Do not flush non-biodegradable wastes into the septic system
- Do not flush: coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers, paints, pesticides, kitty litter, sanitary napkins, tampons, varnishes, photographic solutions, cigarette butts, condoms, gauze, paint or stain thinners, bandages, fat, grease, oil, waste oils.
- Do not add harsh chemical cleaners to your septic system
- Do not plant deep rooted plants or trees over or near the absorption area

Schedule Septic Tank Pumping

Homeowners should get in the habit of having the septic tank pumped. If you are able and willing to have your septic tank pumped on a routine basis (such as every 2 years) it may be possible to further enhance the effectiveness of your entire on-lot wastewater disposal system. Research at Penn State has shown that your soil absorption system will benefit from periodic resting (a period during which no wastewater is added to the system). To get the greatest benefit from pumping your septic tank, it is recommended that you have your septic tank pumped every two years on the day before you and your family leave for your summer vacation. This means the whole system, especially the soil absorption area will have the opportunity to dry out and any partially decomposed organic waste that may have moved into the soil absorption area will quickly decompose in the absence of water.

*Never enter a septic tank for any reason. These tanks contain gasses that can kill you.

The frequency of pumping depends on several factors:

- Capacity of septic tank
- Volume of wastewater (related to size of household)
- Amount of solids in the waste water (i.e. garbage disposals produce more solids)
-

Table 2 lists estimated pumping frequencies according to septic tank capacity and the number of persons living in the household. The frequencies were calculated to provide a minimum of 24 hours of wastewater retention assuming 50 percent digestion of the retained solids. Under current Pennsylvania law a 900 gallon septic tank is the minimum size that may be used for a home with three bedrooms or less. If six people reside in a three bedroom house, the tank should be pumped every 1.3 years. If the same system serves a family of two, the tank would need pumping every 5.2 years. Systems installed before the current rules and regulations were implemented may need to be pumped more often, perhaps every year or less. The use of garbage grinders will increase the frequency of pumping.



Tables 1 and 2 for septic tank maintenance ...

Check out our website!

Williams Township has a website! Check it out at: www.williamstwp.org. There you will find a wide variety of information of upcoming events, info for upcoming meetings, projects planned by the Public Works Department, etc. Please check the website frequently, we are always updating it.



Are you moving?

Are you planning to move? Have you recently moved? Please do not forget that a MOVING PERMIT is REQUIRED when moving in, out or within Williams Township. Please feel free to print off a moving permit form from our website and mail the completed form, along with a check for \$5.00, to our office if you are unable to come into the office during normal business hours.

Don't forget to vote!

NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Polls Open: 7:00am to 8:00pm

Polling Places:

Upper & Middle District—upper level of the Community Building; 655 Cider Press Rd.

Eastern District—Fire Company #2; 2156 South Delaware Drive (Route 611)

Western District—St. Luke's Evangelical Church; 20 Church Road





The Williams Township Volunteer Fire Company

Summer is over and children are back in school, so please be careful of the children along the road and standing at the bus stops.

The firemen and myself would like to thank everyone who helped and supported our carnival this summer, it was a big success! This is one of our main fundraisers for our Company.

October is Fire Prevention month so be sure to check your smoke detectors and try to go over a fire drill with the family at your house and make sure to have a place outside of the house for everyone to meet. Also anyone with a wood stove or fireplace, please make sure that you have your chimney checked and cleaned.

With fall arriving, brush will be starting to die off, so please be careful with open burning, and make sure to get a burning permit from the Township Office.

Remember there is a township ordinance about marking your mailbox or house. This is only for your own safety so we can find your house quicker. So please make sure that it is easily visible from the road or lane. The Township has house number signs available at the Office for a small fee. They are green with white reflective numbers.

We are always looking for new members so anyone who is interested in joining, please stop by the Fire Company on any Monday night.

Please be safe this fall and we hope everyone has a good and safe holiday season!

Thank you!

Jeff Murray, Fire Chief



Fire Auxiliary Events!

The Auxiliary would like to thank everyone for your support and help at the carnival, for our Basket Bingo, breakfast and throughout the year. Thank you to all who helped make these events a success.

Don't forget Trick or Treat at the Fire House on Saturday, October 31 from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm. February 13, 2010 will be our Valentine Day Dance and our Spring Breakfast will be on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010 from 8:00am to 12:30pm. Check the Township website for times and more information.

The year 2010 is coming quickly so please consider joining the Auxiliary next year as an active member and helping our community. We do many things to support our community and fire company. Our meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Fire House, 2500 Morgan Hill Road.



Tax Office Reminders

Just a reminder that there is a 24 hour drop box available for your use. If you are unable to visit the tax office during the normal business hours, please feel free to leave your payment inside the white mailbox, located to the left of the front door of the Municipal Building. Please do not leave cash, checks only.

The Tax Office is open every Wednesday from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Extended office hours will be available on Tuesday, November 10th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The Tax Collector, Jacqueline Warner, is always available to answer your questions by telephone at 484-541-1056.

ALL WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP 2009 TAXES ARE DUE IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE BY DECEMBER 15TH, 12:00 NOON. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

Williams Township Historical Society News

- On Sunday, November 8, 3:00pm there will be a talk on Circus Trains with Sheldon Endy, miniature builder and collector of circus trains. Come to the Social Room, St. Johns Church on Morgan Hill (next to the Williams Township Elementary School). The public is welcome. Volunteer contributions to the goody table are appreciated; call 610-253-8951 for more information. One strong volunteer needed at 2:00pm to help carry trains.
- Join for our 33rd year! For just \$6.00 you will receive meeting notices via quarterly issues of “The Past-finder”, news about Williams Township related people, places, and events. This is a good way for new residents to learn about Township history and meet other folks.
- Books published by WTHS are available for purchase: “Trolley Memories of a Raubsville Resident by Jane Kiefer Leary and Hexenkopf: History, Healing and Hexerei by Ned Heindel. Ask at the Municipal Building or at the Riegelsville Library, or call WTHS at 610-253-8951. Proceeds benefit the historical society.

Frys Run Watershed Association News

On Saturday, August 1st, the FRWA held a “Critter Capture” at Fry’s Run Park on Route 611. The event was well attended by a dozen children and parents who learned about their local watershed and how to catch and identify the small aquatic animals (invertebrates) which call Fry’s Run home. The numbers and variety of these invertebrates is an indication of the health of Fry’s Run and the watershed.

The Water Resources Education Network grant project to build awareness and community participation to implement the Conservation Plan recommendations for water resource protection has been moving forward.

Planning has begun for a Rain Garden Workshop to be given to home owners in the spring of 2010. A rain garden is an attractive landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants. It is a bowl-shaped or saucer-shaped garden with deep, loose soil designed to absorb storm water runoff. This is a simple do-it-yourself project which can make a big difference in limiting storm water damage. Keep checking the FRWA website (www.frysrn.org) for more information on this upcoming event!

For more information on the FRWA and our activities and events, or to volunteer, please visit our website at www.frysrn.org or call Matt Powers at 484-373-0987.



Land Preservation Update

In 2004 the Township voted to dedicate a quarter of one percent of Earned Income Tax for the purchase of conservation easements on privately owned land in the Township. At the time, Williams Township was the first municipality in Northampton County to institute a dedicated source of funding for land preservation. Since that time, six other Northampton County municipalities have done the same. The success of this program is now obvious, as illustrated by the following:

Since 2005, the Township and participating landowners have permanently preserved 707 acres of farmland and woodlands from any future development. Combined with land that was preserved prior to 2005, the total of preserved land in Williams Township currently is more that 1100 acres of farmland and woodlands in all areas of the township.

Currently, the township is working with several landowners to preserve their lands, and add to the total of preserved land within the township.

This forward looking program has made Williams Township the leader among municipal land preservation programs in Northampton County. The success of this program demonstrates how citizens and landowners can work effectively together to preserve the natural environment. Farmland and open space preservation is something that all residents benefit from, whether it is for quality of life reasons or lower taxes. The success of this program is something all of us share in, and can also be proud of.





Do you have the time?

Township residents are needed to serve on a Sewer Advisory Committee and a Landfill Advisory Committee.

The Township needs 4 to 6 residents to become members of the Sewer Advisory Committee. The function of this committee will be to review sewer billing practices and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Members should be able to attend daytime meetings. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call or e-mail Katie Faubert at the township office (610-258-6788 or kfaubert@williamstwp.org) with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address by November 16, 2009.

The Host Community Agreement provides for a Joint Landfill Committee to monitor the operation of the landfill and to encourage effective communication and cooperation between Chrin and the Township. The Landfill Committee will have two representatives from the township, two representatives from Chrin, and four representatives from the public. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call or e-mail Katie Faubert at the township office (610-258-6788 or kfaubert@williamstwp.org) with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address by November 16, 2009.

From the Board of Supervisors

This has been a difficult year for the Board of Supervisors as we worked to bring closure to the issues surrounding the Chrin Landfill. The Board approved a Settlement Agreement with Chrin in October 2009, added three Zoning Ordinance Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that created a Solid Waste Zoning District in June 2009, and entered into a Host Community Agreement with Chrin in August 2009. The Solid Waste Zoning Ordinance Amendments can be found on the Township website at www.williamstwp.org. Copies of the Host Municipal Agreement are available at the Municipal Office. Throughout its tenure this Board has shown a willingness to undertake and to resolve issues that will help Williams Township maintain its rural character while moving the township forward. The Supervisors would like to thank the residents of Williams Township for their support.

Recycling Containers!!!

Do you need more Recycling Containers? You may come into the Municipal Office and pick up additional containers for just \$5.00! We have an abundance of Recycling containers! If you have not already obtained one, the first container is free! Recycling is mandatory in Williams Township, all trash haulers have been notified of this and are participating. Let's all work together to Recycle!





Williams Township
655 Cider Press Road
Easton, Pennsylvania 18042

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, PA
PERMIT NO. 225

***Trick Or Treat will be
held on Halloween Night,
October 31, 2009.
6:00PM to 8:00PM***



Please make a note of it...

Please note that the Williams Township Municipal Office and the Public Works Department will be closed for the following holidays.

- November 11, 2009 ~ Veteran's Day
- November 26 & 27, 2009 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 24 & 25, 2009 ~ Christmas Holiday