



REPORT

Fall / Winter 2008

Office Mailing Address
110 Bell Tavern Road
Downingtown, PA 19335
Phone: 610-269-1989
Fax: 610-269-9183

Board of Supervisors

Edward J. Dymek
Donald D. Maheu
Joel F. Swisher

Secretary/Manager

Barbara Kelly

Treasurer/Administrative Assistant

Bonnie Lucy

Planning Commission

Donald Ash
David Bolger
Tony DeLuca
Inge Forlenza
Stephen Pizzi
Paul Socorro
Bruce Taylor

Zoning Hearing Board

Shawn Dowds
Dyanne Delaney
William van Roden
Mary Simme
Michael McFarland
John Kiefel, Solicitor

Recreation Board

Loretta Kukles
Felicia Meakim
Susan Shrum
Steve Costa
Tawnya McCain
Perry Stathacos
Amanda Ores
Vacant
Vacant

Township Solicitor

Landis & Setzler Associates

Township Engineer

Buchart-Horn, Inc.

Building/Zoning Officer

Brian Gallagher

Permits Clerk

Melba Forcine

Fire Marshal

Chris Obenchain

News From the Recreation Board

KID'S DAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Now that the fall is quickly approaching, the recreation board is finalizing their plans for the 6th annual Kids Day in the Park. The festivities will be on Saturday, September 20 and will begin at 10am and continue until 2:00pm. Some of the activities we have planned are pony rides, a rock climbing wall, moon bounces, crafts and games. We will also be having a return appearance by our friend Swoop from the Philadelphia Eagles. Local businesses will be setting up to give information for children's events in the community. Activate Chester County; Chester County Safe Kids, Chester County 911 Public Education Team, as well as the Downingtown Police Department are all scheduled to be on hand to teach child safety and good health. Touch of Class Dance Studios will be doing a performance, and Lowe's will be bringing one of their Build and Grow clinics to us!! We will have a local food and drink vendor as well as an Alex's Lemonade stand.

Our first annual Halloween in the Park will be held on Saturday October 25th at dusk. We are planning on having local businesses set up and give out treats to our tricksters. More information will follow.

Hopefully you were able to attend our Second Annual Egg Hunt held in March, and our Second Annual Kids Day at Lowe's (in conjunction with Lowe's). We had a great turn-out for both events, and fun was had by all who attended. We also ran 2 movies this summer which were kicked off by some local band talent. Thanks to the bands for the entertainment!

All of our events are run by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to help at any of the events, please contact Bonnie at the township building at 610-269-1989. We are always looking for energetic people to help. Let us know if you are interested

At this time we would like to say THANK YOU to Mark Smith & Steve DiLuigi for their years of service on the Parks & Recreation Board. We wish you and your families the best as you move on to new endeavors.

Please visit us often for updates at www.eastcalnrec.org.

CAN WE FIND YOU IN AN EMERGENCY??

Ambulance, Fire and Police

The emergency providers constantly face the challenge of responding to an emergency in the least amount of time possible. Many residents are currently NOT displaying their house numbers so that they can be identified from the street and in the dark! **HOUSE NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE DISPLAYED WITH A MINIMUM OF 3" RELECTIVE NUMBERS**, If a mailbox is located at the house, the numbers should be displayed on both sides of the mailbox; in development setting, the numbers should be displayed on the house front, and in situations where the homes cannot be seen from the street or there is no mailbox, numbers can be displayed on a post along the property frontage. Please be sure that you can be located easily in the event of an emergency and remember, these situations are never planned for, **DO IT TODAY!!!**

Construction Permit Requirements

East Caln Township is one of the 2400 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that 'opted in' to adopt and enforce the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code. This program went into effect in December 2000.

Prior to the start of any construction project, take a minute and call the Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement at East Caln Township, 610-269-7326 and verify the need for a permit for the work you are undertaking. The East Caln Township Building Code regulates the International Building Code and its amendments, the International Fire Code and its amendments, the International Energy Conservation Code, Existing Structures Code, Fuel Gas Code, Plumbing Code, Property Maintenance Code, Mechanical Code, Residential Building Code, Urban-Wild Land Interface Code.

Traditionally, building permits & zoning permits are required for, but not limit to:

- New Buildings; residential or non-residential
- Alteration & Additions to residential or non-residential structures
- Demolition of a structure
- Electrical work: new, replacement or upgrading
- Plumbing work: new, replacement or upgrading
- Mechanical work: new, replacement or upgrading
- Oil or Propane tank removal
- Re-roofing, siding or re-siding
- Fences and Sheds
- Signs
- Pools, both in-ground & above-ground, hot tubs & saunas
- Repaving or expanding a driveway

A permit must be approved & acquired BEFORE the start of any work. Failure to obtain the proper permits can have far reaching and expensive repercussions. Emergency work will only be allowed as long as the Office is notified of the situation and has provided verbal approval, a permit must be obtained with-in 48-hours of the emergency.

Reasons for Permits

Permits are required for **YOUR** protection. They ensure that the work being preformed is compliant with the associated Code. They provide a means for Code Officials to protect residents by reducing potential hazards of unsafe construction, thereby ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the public. Once a permit is issued, Code Officials can inspect construction and ensure minimum standards are met and appropriate materials are used. Separate and apart, but just as important, a permit allows the Code Office to verify your contractor has the correct insurance and workers compensation coverage to reduce YOUR liability should someone get injured while working on your home.

Permit Process

When a permit is required for the work you are undertaking, the permit process and fee will be explained to you by the Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement at the time of your visit or call. East Caln offers you the opportunity to make an appointment to have your permit reviewed, in lieu of dropping it off and waiting up to 15-business days for a reply, denial or approval. Permit applications, fee schedules and contact names and numbers are available on our Website at: www.eastcalntownship.com.

Permit Workload - 1 Jan. to 31 July '08

- Permits Issued 505
- Inspections conducted 1118
- Meetings 667
- Phone calls logged 8069
- Email processed 6342
- Value of Construction \$6,840,013

TRASH & RECYCLING NEWS

TOTERS: Please make a record of your toter number. It is now required to report a lost, stolen, or a repair order. You must have the number prior to calling the Township or you can call the hauler directly at 610-942-2707.

BULK TRASH PICK UP IS THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH



RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:

Please do your part in preserving our natural resources by recycling:

- Placing newsprint, junk mail, and all clean paper in a brown grocery bag. Keep cardboard separate.
- Co-Mingling glass, aluminum, metals, and plastics 1 & 2.
- **Remember that recycling is mandatory for both residential and commercial properties within the township**

HAZARDOUS WASTE PICK UP DATES- Next date is September 13th at New Garden Twp Bldg, 8934 Gap Newport Rd. Landenberg PA 19350 and October 11th at Government Service Center 601 Westtown Rd West Chester PA 19380

Collection Times 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you need more information on recycling and hazardous collection dates go to website:www.chestercountyswa.org . There are videos and helpful hints on how to recycle correctly.

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF YOUR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

- Congratulations to Christopher Obenchain, Fire Marshal/ Assistant Building Codes Official, on passing the Commercial Building Inspector's certification exam.
- Mark Smith has resigned as a member of the Parks & Recreation Board. Thanks for your years of service.
- Steve DiLuigi has resigned as a member of the Parks & Recreation Board. Thanks for your years of service.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

East Caln Township has a web page at www.eastcalntownship.com

E-mail may be sent to the following addresses:

Board of Supervisors:

supervisors@eastcalntownship.com

Township Manager:

manager@eastcalntownship.com

Administrative Assistant

admin@eastcalntownship.com

Building & Zoning Officer

codes@eastcalntownship.com

Williams-Transco Issues

This is a recommendation to the residents involved with the Williams Transco Project. Remember that any negotiations are to be site specific plans should include, for your protection, your sewer line, fios, cable, telephone, etc. The FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) has granted a conditional approval to the Williams Company with certain conditions. Williams must be site specific (with pictures and details) of each home located within 50 feet of the existing (70 feet) right of way and the requested additional 20 feet of taking. Each landowner has 30 days after the Williams offer (for taking) to document their objection to the Williams offer. No work can be started prior to a final FERC approval of each taking. The primary objective of the homes affected is the removal of their trees (over 600 on Norwood Road and Mcllvain Drive). The existing plans are for their crossing a stream that flows into the Brandywine. This would impact the Downingtown water supply as well contaminating the water going to Delaware. Our elected representatives have been vocal in attempting to slow down the process until a better way can be found for Williams to stay within their 70 foot right of way. Special thanks to Senator Robert Casey, Congressman Jim Gerlach, State Senator Andy Dinniman and State Representative Curt Schroder. A special thank you is extended to the key area residents that have been instrumental in alerting FERC as to all the misinformation generated by Williams. Since starting our fight for a clear understanding as to what Williams would do, we have been joined by residents in East Whiteland, West Whiteland, the Borough of Downingtown and now by those in West Bradford who now find themselves threatened.

Seniors at DHS

The Township would like to express a special thank you to Marigona Namani (Mia) and Katie Spriggs for choosing East Caln Township to complete their Senior Graduation Projects. Mia worked in the Township building sorting and filing old records and other filing work for the codes department. Katie completed planting of flowers at the Township building as well as at the park along with weeding and general gardening.

Good Luck to Both of you!

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Emergency: Police, Fire, Ambulance – Dial 911
Police Non-Emergency after midnight and weekends (610) 383-7000 Chester County Police Radio.
Police Administration: 8:00 a.m. to Midnight Monday - Friday (610) 269-0263.

**IF YOU CALL 911 BY MISTAKE, DON'T HANG UP!
WHEN SOMEONE ANSWERS THE PHONE, TELL THEM YOU MADE A MISTAKE.**

If you have an emergency you will need to give your name, street address, telephone number and most important the municipality in which you live which is: EAST CALN TOWNSHIP!

For your information: There is also a Caln Township and West Caln Township, so be very specific in stating your location.

Land Development

- River Station Project (located at Rt. 322 and the western end of Boot Road) The owner/applicant has filed for a conditional use to develop the tract to the west of Pro Signs. This property is currently in the I-1 Zoning District and to develop it with multiple building of office space and retail showrooms a conditional use is required. A public hearing is scheduled for September 3, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at the Township Building at which time testimony from the applicant and other interested parties would be heard. The Board then would render a decision after all findings and facts are reviewed.
- Tall Trees Development (on Rt. 113) is still under construction with 75% of the homes being completed.
- Downingtown Quarry Associates (this parcel is located at the northeast corner of Quarry Rd at Lancaster Avenue) Development plans are being considered by the Board for preliminary approval. The site covers 17.4 acres and is proposed to have restaurants, a bank, a coffee shop and a retail store.

Back to School Safety



Safety tips:

Have a safe place for children to wait for the bus, away from traffic and the streets.

Make sure that the children are away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the bus driver gives their signal that it is okay to approach and enter.

When exiting the bus instruct the children to walk away from the bus so the driver can see them before they depart.

Always have children aware of the traffic around them. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, but not all do! So please take a moment with your children and go over the above safety tips and have a safe school year.

Luminaria Volunteers Needed

The Downingtown Area Historical Society is looking for volunteers who will serve as block captains for its annual Lumnaria project. Block captains will help the Historical Society by taking orders from neighbors, friends and family for Luminaria sets, comprised of a candle positioned in a plastic base which is placed in a wax-coated paper bag.

The tradition of displaying as many as 15,000 lighted Luminaria candle sets along the sidewalks and driveways of homes in Downingtown and surrounding townships has been a local Christmas Eve tradition for more than 25 years.

The Luminaria project is a major source of funding for the Downingtown Historical Society. Proceeds from the project are used for the continued restoration and maintenance of Ashbridge House, headquarters of Historical Society, and to preserve its collection of documents and artifacts. The 18th Century Ashbridge House is located on Route 30 in East Caln.

For additional information, call Carol Grigson at 610-269-1167.

Fire Prevention

East Caln Township and the Downingtown Fire Department are teaming up with the NFPA (National Fire Prevention Association) from October 5-11, 2008 to urge local residents to "Prevent Home Fires" during Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign focuses on preventing all the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical equipment and smoking materials. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in the event of a fire.

According to the latest research from NFPA more than 2,500 people died in home fires in the United States in 2006, and 12,500 were injured. Fire Departments responded to 396,000 home fires, which accounted for 80% of civilian deaths and 76% of injuries that year.

"While the number of home fires is daunting, the good news is that many are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire, said East Caln Township Fire Marshal Chris Obenchain. "Whether it's smoking outside the home or staying in the kitchen when you are using the stovetop, there are easy things you can do to keep your home and family safe from fire."

Do you know how to keep your home safe from fire hazards? Taking action can help you "Prevent Home Fires" during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

We encourage everyone to check their smoke detectors monthly. Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom and on every level of the home. If you live in a newer home, your smoke detectors still need to have the batteries replaced.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by municipalities and fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. For more information visit the following websites: www.firepreventionweek.org, www.eastcalntownship.org; www.ccfirechiefs.org

Leaf Collection Dates
Mark Your Calendar
 Leaf bags available at
Township Building
October 7, 2008
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PICK UP DATES
October 25, 2008
November 15, 2008
December 20, 2008

Calendar – 2008

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Board of Supervisors 1:30 p.m.
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Planning Commission Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Zoning Hearing Board (as required) 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Board of Supervisors 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Bulk Trash..... 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 1 Board of Supervisors 1:30 p.m.
- 1 Parks & Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Leaf Bags Available 9:00 a.m.
- 15 Board of Supervisors 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Bulk Trash Pick-up 6:00 a.m.
- 20 Zoning Hearing Board (as required) 7:30 p.m.
- 25 LEAF BAGS PICK UP 5:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER

- 3 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Board of Supervisors 1:30 p.m.
- 5 Parks & Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 15 LEAF BAG PICK UP 5:00 a.m.
- 17 Zoning Hearing Board (as required) 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Board of Supervisors 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Bulk Trash 6:00 a.m.

DECEMBER

- 1 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Board of Supervisors 1:30 p.m.
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Zoning Hearing Board (as required) 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Board of Supervisors 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Bulk Trash Pick-up 6:00 a.m.
- 20 LEAF BAG PICK UP 5:00 a.m.

NOTE: Trash and Recycling is collected on scheduled days including holidays.

All Meetings are held in the Township Building Located at 110 Bell Tavern Road
 Just north of Lancaster Avenue. Please contact the Township Office, 610-269-1989 for any further details.

Township Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

East Caln Township
110 Bell Tavern Road
Downingtown, PA 19335

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 54
 Downingtown, PA
 19335

Sewer Billing & Water Conservation

Did you know that by conserving water that can also reduce your sewer bill? Billings are based on water consumption and here are some tips for saving water now and throughout the year! Also many residents have inquired about reducing the sanitary sewer bill because they have pools and/or lawn sprinklers. The Township allows residents who are connected to the public sanitary sewer system to have a water meter installed (at the resident's own expense) to account for water that is not returned to the sanitary sewer system (e.g., swimming pool, lawn sprinkler). Upon installation of this special meter, the resident notifies the Township to register the meter. Every quarter, residents who have registered the special meters will be required to notify the township of the current reading, The reading is then credited against the resident's sanitary sewer rental bill.

In the Bathroom:

- Over ¾ of the water used indoors is used in the bathroom.
- Conservation efforts here can make a big difference.
- Take shorter showers.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Repair leaking faucets and toilets.
- Don't use the toilet as a trash can.
- Avoid unnecessary flushes.
- Install low-flow aerators and showerheads.

In the laundry:

- Run washing machines only when full
- Allow heavily soiled clothes to soak in the washing machine to avoid multiple washes

In the Kitchen:

- Install a faucet aerator.
- Refrigerate a bottle of drinking water rather than running the water until it is cold enough to drink.
- Use a dishpan or fill up the sink for washing and rinsing dishes.
- Throw food waste in the trash, not in the sink's garbage disposal.

Conservation Information

A leaking water fixture can waste 200 gallons of water each day. Low-flow showerheads use 40% to 50% less water than conventional fixtures.

Use a toilet tank dye tablet to discover silent and costly tank leaks. Fix the leak or install a low-flow toilet to save 20% to 50% of water used by conventional toilets.

In-sink garbage disposals use a great deal of water and unnecessary solids to the sewer system.

A short shower saves 7 gallons of water per minute and uses 1/3 the amount of water for a bath.

Filling the bathtub halfway saves 10 to 15 gallons.

Broadcast Digital Television is Coming: Are You Ready?

Congress mandated that over-the air- broadcast television stations convert all-digital television broadcasting by February 17, 2009. The change will free up frequencies for public safety communications (such as police, fire, and emergency rescue) and providing new commercial wireless services, including mobile broadband. This transition is known as the Broadcast Digital Television ("DTV") transition.

So what does this all Mean for you?

If your TV is hooked up to your local cable or satellite company your service will not be impacted.

However, if you own an "analog" TV set that is not connected to cable and functions with the help of "rabbit ears" or antenna, you will not be able to watch broadcast TV channels as of February 17, 2009.

If you are not sure whether your TV is "analog" or "digital," look for a label that says "Integrated Digital Tuner," "Digital Tuner Built-in", "Digital Receiver", or "Digital Tuner", "DTV", "ATSC", or "HDTV"(High Definition). If your TV has any of these labels you should be okay and do not need to take any other action.

If your TV does not have the digital capability then you will need to choose one of the three options:

Purchase a digital converter box to use with your current TV(\$40.00 government coupons are available by visiting www.DTV.gov or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.) Note: Coupons will be available first-come, first served basis.

Purchase a new digital TV

Connect your analog TV to the service provided by your local cable company or another video service provider.

Still need more information? For information on the transition visit www.dtvtransitions.org or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.

For more information on the converter box coupon, go to www.DTV.gov or call 1-888-225-5322.

Ready For Snow?

It may be early for this reminder, but winter is coming! The township would like to offer some tips to help with the snow removal efforts:

Please keep all cars parked in driveways and special designated spaces. If they are parked in the street, it just makes it more difficult to clear away the snow.

Do not plow or shovel snow into the street. It creates a safety hazard,

Beware of where you pile the shoveled snow. Don't block your neighbors or your view of oncoming traffic.

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please shovel the snow away. The cleared area will be needed in an emergency. Rescue personnel have little time to clear snow and fight a fire or rescue a life!

The township's contractor will make every effort to keep the streets clear and safe, but your help is needed too.

As the snow melts try to clear the storm drains so that the water can flow freely to the drain. Your help is appreciated.

CAR POOLING: *Not Just for Environmentalist Anymore!*

Did you know that most sport utility vehicles get approximately 20 miles per gallon, and some get 12 to 16 mpg, while most cars average 28 mpg? With the price of gas skyrocketing, in addition to reducing air pollutions emissions, it's a great reason to consider carpooling to work. Many residents are pairing up to make the commute to work.

Here are some helpful hints for residents to consider when creating a carpool:

Considerations:

- Time in / out of work An adjustment from 5 days a week commute to 2 days a week travel to work can save \$50 or more a year.
- Meeting points _ You can meet at a house, carpool lot, church or shopping center (ask permission first).
- Smoking preference.
- Find someone that you can get a ride home with if your car pool buddy has an emergency while at work.
- Agree to car pool rules ahead of time (ex: leave time for no shows, eating in car, radio preferences, etc.).

Benefits:

- Lower your auto insurance.
- Bond and network with a co-worker / neighbor.
- Decrease oil change frequency.
- Cut your gas bill between one-third to one-half.
- Lower greenhouse emissions.

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The Importance of Storm Water Management

Storm water management may be defined as controlling the surface runoff generated by precipitation through installation of facilities such as stone seepage pits, rain barrels, and rain gardens to capture storm water runoff before it flows off the property. Impervious includes, but not limited to, the material that comprises any roof, patio, walkway, or driveway areas. Reducing impervious surfaces is paramount to minimizing the damaging effects, such as flooding and pollution, of stormwater runoff. Runoff carries salt, sand, and soil, pesticides, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, oil, litter and many other pollutants into nearby waterways.

Each citizen can do things each day to reduce the stormwater runoff pollution

- Keep pesticides, oil, trash, and other pollutants off streets and out of storm drains.
- Divert roof water to lawns and gardens where it can be safely soaked in.
- Clean up pet waste – bury it or flush it down the toilet.
- Service your car regularly to prevent gasoline, oil, brake and transmission fluids, and anti-freeze from leaking onto the pavement and washing into our streams.
- Use fertilizers and herbicides only when necessary, and follow the directions carefully.
- Use natural, organic fertilizer before heavy rain falls.
- Keep all litter off the street and place it in trash receptacles so that it does not get washed or blown into the storm drains.