



REPORT

Fall/Winter 2009

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

Director of Finance

Bonnie Lucy

Planning Commission

Donald Ash
John Beierle
David Bolger
Inge Forlenza
Stephen Pizzi
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Zoning Hearing Board

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Dyanne Delaney
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Michael McFarland
John Kiefel, Solicitor

Recreation Board

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Susan Shrum
Steve Costa
Tawnya McCain
Perry Stathacos

Amanda Ores

Kathleen Yoder-Schlosser
Christopher Steiner

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

Don't Forget Kid's Day September 19th

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Now that the fall is quickly approaching, the Recreation Board is finalizing our plans for our 7th Annual Kids Day in the Park. The festivities will be on Saturday, September 19th (rain date 9/20) and will begin at 10:00am and continue until 2:00pm. Some of the activities planned are pony rides, a rock climbing wall, moon bounces, train rides, crafts and games. We may even have a friendly mascot favorite attend. Local businesses will be setting up to give information for children's events in the community. Lionville YMCA, Chester County 911 Public Education Team, as well as the Fire Department are just a few groups that 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 Sabatinos Mobile Pizza, Ice Wizards Mobile Unit, and don't forget to stop by Alex's Lemonade stand. If you would be interested in setting up a table at our Kid's Day event, please contact Bonnie Lucy at the East Caln Township building at 610-269-1989 or log on to www.eastcalnrec.com and print out a registration form.

Our first annual Halloween in the Park will be held on Saturday October 24th starting at 4:00pm and running until 6:00pm (Rain date 10/25). We will have local businesses set up and give out treats to our tricksters, a dramatic story teller, and much more. So bring your treat bags, your family and friends and dress up in your best costume for this occasion.

Hopefully you were able to attend one of our movies this summer. We had a great time listening to great music before watching family fun movies under the stars in our beautiful Bell Tavern park. We also had a great time at our third annual Kids Day at Lowe's (in conjunction with Lowe's). Over 400 children attended! For the first time this year, we held a shredder event at the park. Those who came were very happy to properly dispose of their personal documents.

We are always looking for energetic people to join the board. If you are interested, let us know. If you are interested in just volunteering for one of our events, please contact Bonnie at the Township building at 610-269-1989.

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

Leaf Collection Dates

Mark Your Calendar

Leaf bags available at Township Building: **October 6th**
COLLECTION DATES: October 24th, November 14th and December 19th.

NOTE: TREE MEMO

Please be aware if you have trees that encroach upon the street. It is YOUR responsibility to keep them trimmed back. If they are not the Township will use it's discretion in cutting them back.

Land Development

- **River Station Project** (located at Rt. 322 and the western end of Boot Road). The land development plan has been approved to construct six commercial buildings on the tract which will consist of office/warehouse space. The infrastructure work on the site has been started.
- **Tall Trees Development** (on Rt. 113) The remaining townhouse units at Tall Trees are under roof and the project is nearing completion.
- **Downingtown Quarry Associates** (this parcel is located at the northeast corner of Quarry Rd at Lancaster Avenue). The final development plans have been approved. The construction has not started due to acquiring an easement to allow the developer to cross private property to connect to the sanitary sewer line. The Lancaster Avenue Road Improvements would then be started after all plan details are completed.
- **Kardon Park-** Progressive Ventures, LLC – This parcel is located just off the southeastern side of Norwood Rd near Wallace Avenue. The Township solicitor is currently preparing a draft ordinance to allow for the rezoning of the tract from R-1 to R-4.
- **Williams/Transco** - Most of the Level 3 work for lowering the fiber cable has been completed in the Township. Williams has started the pipeline replacement work throughout areas of the Township and into West Whiteland along Whitford Hills Road.
- **McNabb Project at 1150 Boot Road.** The old house on the property has been renovated and restored and the offices are open. Work continues on the portion of the project that will have buildings and parking spaces available for rent to park and store equipment.
- **Moser Project** – This project is located at the corner of Skelp Level Road and Boot Rd. The plans have been approved by the Board for construction of building on Lot 6. Work is continuing on the connecting road from Skelp Level to Chestnut Street.
- **Norwood Road Bridge Replacement** – The bridge work has been completed. Lyons And Hohl were the contractors who completed the work and the engineering firm of CMC prepared the bridge design plans and monitored the construction work.

Other Updates

- **280 Boot Road** – Renovations have been underway at the Trestle Bridge Business Center for the relocation of Duffy Catering from the Main Line area.
- **Park Update** – The Board of Supervisors hopes that you have had a chance to visit the park in the recent month with your children to enjoy the newest water feature items. Currently two of the items are operating and the third is to be re-installed. Please supervise your children while enjoying the park.

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 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!

SEWER BACKUP WARNING

Backup of raw sewage through the drains in your home can be a very nasty experience. While they occur infrequently, they can be very costly.

Homeowners may not realize that they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the house sewer lateral (the pipeline between the Township sanitary sewer main, usually located in the street) and the building. The sewer lateral is owned and maintained by the property owner including any part, which may extend into the street or public right of way. A cracked or deteriorated lateral or one filled with tree roots can allow groundwater to seep into the system contributing to the problem.

Most homeowners' policies will not cover a sewer backup without sewer backup coverage. The cost is nominal on average policy about \$40 to \$50 annually.

The Township IS NOT responsible for this type of loss. Therefore, you are encouraged to contact your insurance agent and determine if you already have this coverage on your policy. If not you should consider purchasing it. It's always best to be prepared for the worst.

Election Day reminder

Last day to register to Vote: October 5, 2009

Last day for absentee ballots: October 27, 2009

Election Day: November 3, 2009

Election Day: Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

You may obtain Voter Registration information from the Chester County Voter Services at (610) 344-6410/6380 or visit their website for forms at www.chesco.org/election. The polling location is currently the Township building at 110 Bell Tavern Road. PLEASE NOTE: An additional precinct is currently being considered which would have voting at the Downingtown United Methodists Church located at Plaza Drive and E. Lancaster Avenue. The residents that would be required to vote at the new locations would be Plaza Drive, E. Lancaster Avenue and the properties located south of Business Rt. 30. It is anticipated to be in effect for the November election. Please check with Township or Voter Registration at the above numbers.

Downingtown Library Fall Book Sale

The book sale will be held upstairs at the library on Friday, September 18, from 7-8 p.m. and on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. A wide variety of books will be available priced at \$1 or less. All proceeds will directly benefit the library.

The Downingtown Library, located at 330 East Lancaster Avenue, serves over 35,000 residents in the greater Downingtown area. It provides various activities, such as book clubs, story times and educational programs to the general public, in addition to circulating over 117,000 books and other items a year. Questions regarding library programs may be directed to the library at 610-269-2741.

The Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act

On July 1, 2009 the Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act went into Law. The administration of this new legislation is handled completely by the Pennsylvania Attorney Generals Office. For specifics on the Home Improvement Act and to see if the contractor you are considering is registered with the State, please refer to the web site, www.attorneygeneral.gov, the right side of the home page has two panels that will link you to the specifics on the Law and your Contractor.

The following is an overview of the new regulations and how they are supposed to protect you, the HOMEOWNER, from fraud by a contractor. Please note the Law is specific to One & Two Family Dwellings, it does not pertain to Apartments, Multi-Family Dwellings or Commercial facilities.

Who is a home improvement contractor?

Any person who owns and operates a home improvement business or who undertakes, offers to undertake or agrees to perform any home improvement. The term includes a subcontractor or independent contractor who has contracted with a home improvement retailer. Examples are: Driveway Seal Coat/Paving Contractors, Roofing Contractors, Plumbing, Electrical & Mechanical Contractors, Landscapers, Painters, Siding & Window Contractors and so on.

What is home improvement fraud?

Home improvement fraud occurs when:

- A contractor intentionally provides false or misleading information to convince a consumer to enter into an agreement for home improvements.
- A contractor receives payment and fails to provide the services or materials.
- A contractor damages a person's property in order to solicit an agreement for services or materials.
- A contractor alters a contract or other documents without the consent of the consumer.
- A contractor publishes false or deceptive advertisements.
- A contractor misrepresents material as special order material or misrepresents the cost of special order material.
- A contractor represents himself or herself as an employee of a governmental unit or public utility.

What must be included in a home improvement contract?

- The contract must be in writing and include the contractor's registration number.
- The entire agreement between the contractor and the consumer including the date of the transaction.
- The name, telephone number, and address of the contractor and subcontractors.
- A description of the work to be performed including the approximate starting and completion dates of the project.
- The total sales price due under contract.
- The amount of any down payment plus any amount paid in advance for the purchase of special order materials.

- The amount of liability insurance coverage maintained by the contractor.
- The toll-free number maintained by the Bureau of Consumer Protection.
- A notice of the consumer's right to rescind the contract.

What are my rights?

- A home improvement contractor must provide you with a copy of the complete contract free of charge.
- You have the right to rescind your home improvement contract without penalty within three business days of the signing date, except as provided under law for emergency situations.
- A home improvement contract is not enforceable against a consumer if it does not include all of the information required by law.
- A contractor may not demand or receive any payment for a home improvement before the home improvement contract is signed.

Where can I find my contractor's registration number?

- * All contractors must display their official registration number on all contracts, estimates, proposals, and advertisements distributed within the Commonwealth.
- * To verify a contractor's registration number call toll free 1-888-520-6680.

The Home Improvement Consumers Act is an additional aide to assist you as a homeowner to make sure you are getting what you pay for. The Act is specific to the wording of contracts; amounts of deposits; delays and defaults of contracts and insurance matters.

Note the Nation-wide Home Improvement Centers are not covered under this Act and still must register with the local municipality.

This new Law does not exempt anyone from the requirements to obtain a permit for work, prior to its start; to have the necessary inspections conducted; and obtain a Use & Occupancy Certificate when completed.

Should you have any questions or do not have access to the internet, please feel free to contact the Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement to: check on your contractor's registration, field any general questions about permits or inspections.

TRASH & RECYCLING NEWS

Bulk Trash pick up is the third Thursday of every month.



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

New Recycling Regulations

- All Items can be co-mingled now: newsprint, junk mail, paper, glass, aluminum, metals, and plastics 1 through 6.
- Remember that recycling is mandatory for both residential and commercial properties within the township anyone in violation of the recycling ordinance will be receiving a notice of violation and possible fines for non-compliance.

New Appointments & Resignations

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank Tony DeLuca for his many years of service as a member of the Township Planning Commission.

The Board of Supervisors has appointed John Beierle of McIlvain Drive to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission.

The Board of Supervisors has appointed Christopher Steiner of Madison Way to the Park and Recreation Committee.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Dates

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 19, 2009 Household Hazardous Materials ONLY: New Garden Township, 8934 Gap Newport Rd. Landenberg PA No Computers Accepted

Sat., Oct. 10, 2009 Household Hazardous Material ONLY: Government Services Center 601 Westtown Rd, West Chester, PA Computers Accepted

Bring unwanted hazardous household automotive products, home maintenance; oil based paint/stains, lawn, and pest control products.

Please note the new web address for recycling and household hazardous waste information at www.chestercountyswa.org.

These words on packaging help identify Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):

**CAUTION EXPLOSIVE TOXIC REACTIVE
POISONOUS WARNING HAZARDOUS
CORROSIVE COMBUSTIBLE FLAMMABLE
DANGER.**

Update Your Homeowners Association Information

This is a reminder if the Township does not have your HOA information and contacts. Please do this at your earliest convenience. Please include name, address, phone and email address of current officers.

Calendar – 2009

SEPTEMBER

2	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
2	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
7	Holiday	Closed
14	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
16	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
17	Bulk Trash.....	5:00 p.m.
19	Kids Day in the Park	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
21	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 a.m.

OCTOBER

5	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
7	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
7	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
19	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.
21	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
22	Bulk Trash Pick-up	5:00 a.m.
24	Leaf Bag Pick-up	5:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER

2	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
4	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
4	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
14	Leaf Bag Pick-up	5:00 a.m.
18	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
19	Bulk Trash	5:00 a.m.
23	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.
26	& 27 Holiday	Closed

DECEMBER

2	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
	Parks & Recreation Commission	No meeting
7	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
16	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
17	Bulk Trash Pick-up	5:00 a.m.
19	Leaf Bag Pick-up	5:00 a.m.
21	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.
24	& 25 Holiday	Closed

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

Take Precautions to Prevent Burns

By Fire Marshal Chris Obenchain

When we think of things in our homes that might cause burns, there are some obvious culprits. Curling irons. Stoves. Radiators. Tap water?

As surprising as it sounds, it's true. Each year thousands of emergency room visits are attributed to scalds – injuries caused by hot liquid or steam. Adults often experience mild scalds, perhaps when washing dishes, and quickly adjust the temperature without a second thought. But older adults and children's skin is much more sensitive and can sustain a burn in a matter of seconds.

In an effort to prevent scalds and other painful burns, East Caln Township, the Downingtown Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have teamed up for Fire Prevention Week to help our community "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned." The public safety campaign, which takes place October 4-10, focuses on burn prevention and treatment, as well as ways to keep your home and family safe from the leading causes of fire.

Simple acts such as setting your water heater's thermostat to no higher than 120 degrees F, and installing "anti-scald" devices on tub faucets and shower heads can help protect you and your family from scalds. But these measures alone are not enough. Test your water at the faucet using a cooking thermometer to make sure it is no higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Even if your water heater is set no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit, use your wrist, elbow, or the back of your hand as your main guide.

Vigilance is key in burn prevention. Always test the water before placing a child or yourself into the tub. The water should feel warm, not hot. Before you put your child in the tub, test the temperature with your wrist, elbow, or the back of your hand. If you're using a thermometer with a read-out, remember that bath water should be no more than 100 degrees.

Of course, tap water isn't the only liquid that can cause burn injuries. Other precautions you can take to keep your family safe from burns include:

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Teach children that hot things hurt.
- Wear short or closefitting sleeves when cooking.

All the vigilance in the world may not be sufficient to prevent every single scald or burn. That is why it is also important to know how to treat a burn. Run the burned area under cool water right away for 3-5 minutes and then cover with a clean, dry cloth. If the burn is bigger than your fist or if you have questions, get medical help.

In addition to these important burn prevention strategies, East Caln Township and the Downingtown Fire Department is encouraging all residents and their families to put their safety first by performing a home hazards inspection during Fire Prevention Week. You can pick up a checklist at the East Caln Township office or you can download one from www.firepreventionweek.org.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)

Why use these new Bulbs?

- Generates 70% less heat than standard bulbs
- Provides the same amount of light, with fewer watts of energy
- If every home replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL bulb, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars.

But remember CFLs contain hazardous material; it is important to dispose of them properly. Please don't dispose in your trash. They can be dropped off at the Household Hazardous Waste collection events, Home Depot, or Chester County Solid Waste Authority.

You Can Help East Caln Township Detect Stream Pollution!



East Caln Township, as well as many other communities in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region, has a permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for its municipal storm sewer system. This permit requires the Township to locate and map all stormwater piping and drainage ditch systems owned and maintained by the Township and to inspect these drainage systems periodically to detect any "illicit discharges" from the systems.

What in the world is an illicit discharge? Simply stated, an illicit discharge is something that is exiting a storm drainage pipe or drainage ditch that is not stormwater and potentially could pollute our streams. Examples of illicit discharges that would be typical for a community like ours are septic system overflows, sanitary wastewater, chlorinated pool water, paints, oil or other vehicle fluids, etc.

While the Township is periodically inspecting its drainage system through the year, the Township cannot be everywhere all the time. If you happen to see something exiting a storm pipe or ditch that looks, smells or feels like something other than stormwater, please contact the East Caln Township so we can track it to its source and keep our streams as clean and pure as possible. To report an illicit discharge call the Township at (610) 269-1989 or send an email to manager@eastcalntownship.com.

Police Contact Numbers

Emergency: Police, Fire, Ambulance - Dial 911

Police (Non-Emergency) - 610-383-7000 (Chester County Police Radio) after midnight and weekends.

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BEWARE MALWARE

The greatest strength of the Internet is also its greatest weakness. Sitting at a keyboard, you can reach out to the world and bring many valuable resources onto your computer. But unless you are very careful, you can also unwittingly allow many types of malicious software, generically known as malware, to tag along for the ride. In this article, we'll take a look at the various types of malware, the warning signs that you have it and ways of avoiding it.

What Is It?

Sometimes it's difficult to classify malware and different kinds will overlap but there are generally four main types: viruses, worms, Trojans and spyware.

Viruses: A virus in your body survives by inserting itself into your body's cells and using those cells to multiply. A computer virus inserts itself into a program on your computer and uses that program's resources to reproduce and spread itself.

Worms: Worms got their name from their ability to "crawl" through networks. They reproduce themselves without embedding themselves in other programs, and they use your network connection to look for vulnerable machines to infect. In 1988, the Morris Worm became so widespread that it managed to slow the entire Internet to a crawl.

Trojans: Trojans take their name from the Trojan Horse of legend. On the outside, they're useful programs or data files. Inside them, however, are digital soldiers ready to attack your computer. For example, free screensavers have been known to contain Trojans.

Spyware: Spyware is a special kind of malware. Its main function is to track what you are doing on your computer, on or off the Web, and send that information to a third party without your knowledge. In some cases, this data harvesting is purely for marketing purposes. In other cases, the intent is more sinister. To be safe and secure, you will have to install, enable and update an anti-spyware program. But be careful and do the necessary research to make sure you are getting a reputable product. Some anti-spyware programs advertised in Web banners and pop-ups are, themselves, spyware.

How Do I Know I Have It?

Sometimes, you can intuit the presence of malware because your computer is running very slowly. The bad news is that your computer could be running very slowly for any number of reasons.

If you happen to glance at the light on your network connection that indicates outgoing traffic and see that it is flashing furiously at a time when neither your Web browser nor your e-mail program is open, you may be unwittingly transmitting spam or viruses.

But the bad news is malware may only manifest itself when it's too late to do anything about it. At a date predetermined by a virus, you may see a message on your screen telling you that your computer has been infected. That could be the best-case scenario. If the person who wrote the malware is more interested in being destructive than in being merely obnoxious, you may find, for instance, all of

your Word documents or all of your pictures are gone.

So if there's no certain way to tell if you have malware, then the best course of action is active prevention.

How Do I Avoid It?

For your part, don't open suspect e-mails. And if you do open one, don't reply to it, even to unsubscribe, and don't click on any links within it.

Most importantly, do not install and download any software from the Web, especially screensavers, before confirming that you're working with a trusted source.

At home, you should do all of the steps outlined above, but you will also have to take more extensive measures such as the ones listed below:

- Get a personal firewall and an anti-virus program and keep them running at all times.
- Make sure you keep the firewall and anti-virus program updated. Enable automatic updates.
- When security patches become available for Windows and Microsoft Office programs, install them immediately. Again, enable automatic updates.
- Adjust the security settings in your Web browser to the highest protection available but still allowing you to use your browser as you need it.

As with many other bad things, there are no certain measures to avoid malware. But if you take the preventive measures outlined here, you will have done your best to assure anyone infecting your computer will have had to really work at it.

Chester County Day

Saturday, October 3, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss Chester County's premier home tour. The 69th annual Chester County Day is an autumn tradition with this year's highlights being in the northwestern section from Exton to Elverson. Tickets are \$35 and earns you the exclusive access to some of the area's finest homes. Benefits the Chester County Hospital. Please call 610-431-5301 for more information or log on to www.cchosp.com

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