

PENN TOWNSHIP

SNYDER COUNTY, PA

228 Clifford Road, Selinsgrove, PA

Autumn/Winter
2009/2010

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR COMPOST SITE?

If you haven't been there, the site is located on Township land at the end of Gaugler Road. Follow the compost site sign, across from the Salem Lutheran Church on Salem Road. With DEP approval, the Township opened the site this past Spring with overwhelming participation from our residents.

We accept grass clippings, other lawn and garden waste, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), shrub trimmings, and branches. There are signs on the site to show you where to place the different materials. Materials **NOT** to be placed at this site include:

NO:

- Tree stumps
- Cat or dog waste
- Meat or fish bones
- Fat, grease, lard or oils
- Dairy products
- Plastic or metals
- Coal, wood or charcoal ash (can be placed on either of the Township cinder piles (at the compost site or at the Twp building))

By keeping these materials out of the compost site, we can produce a quality compost and a coarse or larger chip

mulch that will be available to our residents. Call the Township office to check on availability.

This site is constantly monitored to prevent misuse. Legal action will be taken against offenders and abuse of the site could ensure closure to the public. The compost site is free to our residents and is open 7 days a week, dawn until dusk.

2009 CURBSIDE COLLECTIONS

Leaves: October 19th thru November 23rd.

Place leaves along the road or street, but not in the roadway. Leaves should not be in bags and need to be free of debris such as sticks and stones, (they may break our bones or our equipment), etc.

Christmas Trees: The week of January 4, 2010

No bags, tree stands, ornaments or lights. Again, trees should be placed along the road or street, but not in the roadway.

IT'S HALLOWEEN!!

Witches and goblins and zombies.....oh my! We all love this time of year. Autumn leaves, apple cider and those adorable little 'superman's and 'ballerina's we see on every street corner on Halloween. Though this is a fun time of year, there are still dangers that lurk around every corner. Here are a few tips to help make sure this Halloween is a safe adventure for your little ones and yourself.

- Make sure your child's costume is fire proof and that the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision.

- Small children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Instruct your child not to go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
- Children, even older children, should stay in well populated areas and not cut through back alleys and fields.
- Children should be given a set time to be home. Make sure your child is responsible enough to go out by themselves.

Check out these tips and more at www.halloween-safety.com.

See our Halloween Fun page—pg 7



Please note —

Penn Township does not set specific Halloween hours. If you wish, you may follow Selinsgrove Borough's set hours, which for this year are on October 31, 2009 from 6:00PM until 8:00PM.

WINTER IS COMING!

Winter is fast approaching and here are some tips to prepare yourself for the cold weather and stay safe:

- Keep an emergency supply kit in your vehicle with a flashlight, an ice-scraper, flares, rock salt, booster cables, a spare tire and a blanket.
- If your vehicle breaks down during a storm, put your 4-way flashers on and raise the hood to draw attention to your situation.
- Never let the fuel tank in your vehicle go below half-full, and refill it whenever a winter storm watch is issued.

This winter, our road crew will be out there plowing and cindering. Please allow them plenty of room to do their job. Keep a safe distance behind and do not try to pass.



Mailboxes are erected in the right-of-way as required. Just a reminder—the Township is not responsible for any snow flying off the plow and damaging a mailbox. The Township will make restitution for any mailbox physically hit by the snowplow.

Do not sweep cinders or other debris into road drains or inlets. This creates unnecessary hazards and the Township road crew must clean them out, costing our taxpayers money.

SELINGROVE COMMUNITY GARDENS (along University Avenue across from East Snyder Park)

This was the first season for the community garden, and although it got a late start, it was a huge success. We spoke with Joel Imgrund from PA Dept. of Ag. who noted they had mapped out @ 25 plots and ended up, due to the demand, adding 13 additional plots. We're told there are 7 acres available for these garden plots with hopes of mapping out 100-150 plots for the 2010 growing season. These are 30' X 30' plots, with an annual use fee of \$10., and are available March -

November each year. There are walkways between the plots and you may garden from dawn to dusk. You can apply to use more than one plot and all plots are on a first come first serve basis. Dept. of Ag. improved the area as the summer moved along, adding parking and two points for water. Mr. Imgrund visited the garden area over the summer meeting with gardeners who told him they were pleased and their crops did well. One area of contention expressed by some gardeners was deer

had visited their crops. Mr. Imgrund noted Dept. of Ag. would most likely be fencing the area in the future. If you have question or are interested in a plot for next year you can pick up an application and a "Rules to Garden By" handout here at the Penn Township office or you may call Joel Imgrund at the Cooperative Extension Office at (570) 966-8194 or e-mail him at jci101@psu.edu, note the community garden in the subject line.

"Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today." – James Dean

PERMITS

A Zoning Permit is required for any construction or new construction on a property including, but not limited to additions, decks, sheds, garages, pools, new homes, new mobile homes, and enclosures. You do not need a permit for new siding, new windows, or paving your driveway. If you have any questions, call the Township office at 374-4778 or the Penn Township Zoning Officer Tom Snyder at 374-9167. Your project may also require a Building Permit from the Central Keystone COG. Those permits include, but are not limited to, additions, decks (over 30" high) unattached garages (over 1000 sq ft), any attached structure, fencing (6' or higher) new homes, new

mobile homes, roof repair/replacement of framing, renovations when changing means of egress, moving or cutting into load bearing walls, and/or changing or moving plumbing or electric, and enclosures. For more information on Building Permits or to see if your project will require a Building Permit, contact the Central Keystone COG at 1-877-457-9401 or www.ckcog.com.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



November 3, 2009

If you have any questions, call the Township Office at 374-4778 or contact Pat Nace at Snyder County Courthouse at 837-4286.

FLOOD INFORMATION

Penn Township continues to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), which requires the Township to be re-certified annually. Continued participation in this program allows business owners and all residents of Penn Township to purchase flood insurance at reduced premiums in recognition of the efforts made by the Township to lessen the impact of flooding. With our continued efforts, FEMA has designated Penn Township as a Class 8 municipality, allowing for 15% reduction on flood insurance to those in the floodplain and a 5% reduction for flood insurance for non-floodplain residents.

Any home in Penn Township can be covered by flood insurance, but don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance; there is a 30-day waiting period for coverage to take effect. Talk to your agent today.

As part of the CRS recertification, we send letters to local realtors, insurance agencies, and lenders. The letters make them aware that Penn Township participates in the CRS Program. Another part of the recertification involves making our community aware of flood hazards through letters to those living in the flood plain and repetitive loss areas. These letters inform residents on Flood Safety, Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains, Flood Insurance w/ Mandatory Purchase Requirements and Federal Financial Aid, Property Protection and much more.

The complete "Flooding and You" information has been included at least once annually in our Township newsletter. If you need a copy of this, please call the Township Office or e-mail Brenda at bpenntownship@yahoo.com.

Penn Township annually updates the names, addresses, and phone numbers of our "need to call/evacuation" list in case of an emergency. Our Zoning Officer works to enforce the Flood Plain and Stormwater Management Ordinances. Contact our office for permit requirements for floodplain development. Our Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), along with the Penn Township road crew have over time, identified areas with chronic flooding and drainage problems and continue to work to improve these areas. You can help by keeping ditches and drainage areas on your property open and free of debris.

Call the Township Roadmaster to report a problem with debris, fallen trees or anything else that would hinder water flow (374-4258).

FEMA has the latest information on flood insurance at: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/fiprobyr.shtm>
 FEMA's Answers to Questions about the National Flood Insurance Program is at: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/qanda.shtm>

2010 CENSUS

Can you believe it? It's been a whole decade since the last census. And now it's time for the 2010 Head Count. As you know, Census workers were around this past spring and summer and physically counted, mapped properties and verified addresses of every residence in our Township.

What's next? Every residence can expect to receive the 2010 Census questionnaire. You will be expected to complete and return this form. As with every Census, some homes are visited by Census takers. We have no way of knowing which homes will be visited. Do not try to avoid the Census takers because they will return to your home until they make contact with you.

The result of the census is critical to Penn Township as some of the state grants, as well as our Liquid Fuels disbursement from the State, depend on our population. It is crucial that you fill out your census forms correctly and accurately.

This chart shows the number of new home permits we have issued since 2000.



2000	26
2001	53
2002	26
2003	51
2004	35
2005	33
2006	23
2007	15
2008	23
2009 (to date)	8
TOTAL	293

As you can see, there was a steady increase in the first half of the decade. But the economy has definitely taken a bite out of new construction in Penn Township. Even so, with 293 new homes over the past ten years, our Census numbers are sure to go up.

Penn Township has been described as the fastest growing municipality in Snyder County, and we still have room to grow! Building lots are available in Meadowview Estates, (Phase III), Pheasant Ridge, and the new Peachwood Development on Salem Road.

BURNING

We do not have any Ordinances regarding burning, although some neighborhoods, such as Harris Estates and Salem Glenn, do not allow burning per their deed restrictions. We ask that you use common courtesy, and not burn items with noxious odors or that would be detrimental to you or your neighbor's health. No burning is allowed anywhere

GANG AWARENESS - A COMMUNITY MATTER.

As many of you probably have heard, or read in the paper by now, and frankly I wish you all were able to attend, recently there was a presentation on September 29, 2009 in the Selinsgrove Middle School Auditorium. This event was co-sponsored by Snyder County District Attorney's Office and the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way.

Due to the increasing violent crimes in our local communities the Snyder County District Attorney's Office and the GSV United Way felt the need to express their concern for our safety due to the infiltration of gangs and gang related activity within our county.

Ali Stevens moderated the panel which included: Mike Sholley, Snyder County DA; Steve Mazzeo, Sunbury Chief of Police; Noel Jones, North'd Co Human Services; and Shane Pepe, Berwick Boro Manager. Each of the panel members, in some fashion must deal with the affects of gangs and gang activity every day they go to work. The sad part is, it must be difficult and probably impossible to leave all that ugliness in the office when they go home each day. These people need to be commended for their efforts to preserve our quality of life.

Several issues were discussed, not only the affects of gang activity on our families and children, but the consequences of failing to act when gang activity rears its head in our community.

Obviously I can't include every detail of the presentation here but, a couple of points that caught my attention were:

- You should report **any** activity, no matter how insignificant it may seem to you, to the police. Of course, if it's an emergency dial 911 or 374-8145. The non-emergency number for the State Police is 374-5793. The point made was that nearly everyone has a cell phone with a camera. Use it! If you see any suspicious activity, use your phone to get video or take a picture. This is so helpful in the prosecution of criminals.
Remember- silence is acceptance!
- Kids just want and need to be a part of something. It should start, and we would hope, with being a part of a loving family. We all know some kids do not have the advantage of a caring family. So, in some cases kids turn to gangs to feel they belong. We shouldn't turn our backs, be afraid to make eye contact, purposefully walk a wide swath around, or try to avoid them because they look or dress differently then we think they should look or dress. Instead, make the eye contact and start with a pleasant "hello". This could go along way in helping a kid see and feel they are someone other then a common street thug.
- Susquehanna Valley Mall Security noted the increase of suspected members' spending lots of money at the mall.
- Did you know.....**Belonging to a gang is not illegal in Pennsylvania!**
- Most communities and schools are in denial that there are gangs in their area.

There were upwards of 150 people who attended this presentation that included numerous local leaders, school officials and teachers, members of law enforcement, parents, grandparents and other concerned citizens. There was mention of a "Gang Awareness" presentation to our Selinsgrove Area Schools if it were requested. If I'm asked as a parent if I want this presented in our high school and/or middle school, I would have to say, **YES!**

Brenda Moyer

East Snyder Park — www.eastsnyderpark.com

Slowly but surely things are moving forward at the park. The large project of the retention pond, lacrosse/football field, new softball field and additional walking trail are pretty much finished. The playing fields will be reworked and reseeded asap by volunteers. The retention pond needs a little fine tuning but we will need to wait until spring to complete this.

We would be remiss if we neglected to mention the countless hours Pete and Cookie DeWire continue to put into the development of the park.....

...again, Thank You Pete and Thank You Cookie... :)

If you run into Pete or Cookie, let them know how much we all appreciate their efforts. Now along with the DeWire's there are others who have contributed time, knowledge, money, and products to the park. We started a list that's more then a page long at this time, but we have decided to save that for the spring newsletter, then the list will include everything for 2009.

The new pavilion has had lots of use over the summer, with reservations for numerous birthday parties, a baby shower, family reunions, and the Larson Design company picnic. Other events held within the park included MACC Corporate Softball Tournament, Senior Olympics and DHL Softball Tournament.



The pavilion is on a first come first serve basis, but there is enough room and tables that we can share the space. If you or your group would like to "reserve" the pavilion, which would ensure it's available for your event, please call 374-4778 to make that reservation. Reservation fee is \$35.00.

Thank You Ken and Dora Battram for this addition to the park!

Dog Related Information for Penn Township Residents

Each year the Township office receives numerous phone calls with questions and complaints about dogs and dog licensing. After researching PA Dog Laws we have come up with the following information that should be helpful. Save this information for future reference.

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed by the County Treasurer.
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily consume it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- You must have a current kennel license if you operate a facility that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away or transfers a total of 26 or more dogs in any one calendar year.
- Owners of dogs and cats 3 months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination.
- It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

Contact Information Regarding Dogs

Dog Licensing in Snyder Co Gale A. Jones, Treasurer - (570) 837-4221 Snyder County Courthouse P.O. Box 217/9 West Market Street Middleburg, PA 17842	Dog Shelter Servicing Snyder County: PSPCA - Danville 2801 Bloom Road Danville, PA 17821 (570) 275-0340
Toll-Free Dog Law Tip line: Call 1-877-DOG-TIP1 (1-877-364-8471) to offer confidential tips about unsatisfactory kennels.	Snyder County Dog Warden: Kenneth Snyder (570) 837-1915



To register an online complaint or tip with the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement use this web address: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=148459> there will be an online form to complete, your name and contact information is optional. Any submission with contact information will be completely anonymous, but the bureau will not be able to contact you to follow-up on your complaint.

Always a question...Which States Have "Leash Laws?" Only two states really address the issue of leashes for dogs on a statewide basis. **Michigan and Pennsylvania**, and perhaps in a less than clear manner, mandate that owners restrain their dogs on leashes when the dogs are not on their owners' property. Many have questioned whether Pennsylvania's law is truly a "leash law" in the traditional sense. Pennsylvania's law appears direct, stating that it is unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog to fail to keep at all times such dog either confined within the premises of the owner or firmly secured by means of a collar and chain or other device so that it cannot stray beyond the premises on which it is secured. [3 P.S. § 459-305](#). Dogs engaged in training or lawful hunting are exempted from this requirement. If an owner disregards the law, he or she may be found negligent in a civil suit where the dog being off-leash caused harm to another.

Some suggest that is up for debate whether Pennsylvania's law truly requires a leash since it provides an option that a dog can be under the "reasonable control" of his or her owner. The law states: [3 P.S. § 459-305](#). Confinement of Dogs - It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog to fail to keep at all times such dog either:

1. confined within the premises of the owner;
2. firmly secured by means of a collar and chain or other device so that it cannot stray beyond the premises on which it is secured; or
3. Under the reasonable control of some person, or when engaged in lawful hunting, exhibition or field training.

In light of all this, it is difficult to say whether failure to leash a dog that appears under reasonable control of his or her owner would violate the law. This entire debate may be obviated by the fact most municipalities have local ordinances requiring the leashing of dogs, although Penn Township does not, but would suggest the best way to control your dog is with a leash. Remember, dogs are personal property. You are responsible for any damage caused by your dog.

RECYCLING IN PENN TOWNSHIP

Please take the time to read this to be sure you are recycling properly. Every municipality can and does have different guidelines that need to be followed. Do not assume what we did two years ago or how you recycled in another area is acceptable in Penn Township.

To follow is a list of what are acceptable materials at our site. The list of acceptable materials is NOT determined by Penn Township, but by Lycoming County Resource Management Services.

Also noted is the way materials are to be prepared. There are NO EXCEPTIONS. If you bring UNACCEPTABLE materials that are not prepared as indicated, you will be asked to take them home with you. Please do not abuse this free service.

Here's a huge problem caused by a small number of recyclers – dirty, smelly materials...PLEASE RINSE YOUR BOTTLES, JARS, CANS, AND JUGS. Your leftover tuna, ketchup, cat food, spaghetti sauce, etc. is unacceptable. If you are bringing dirty materials, you will be asked to take them home, where you can pay to have them removed by your garbage man, who will fill our land fill with it.

OUR PENN TOWNSHIP RECYCLING SITE ACCEPTS:

#1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs ONLY – NO LIDS AND CLEAN To further explain for those who have trouble understanding, this means....NO frozen dinner trays, NO yogurt cups, NO baby wipe containers, NO deli trays or their lids, NO pool chemical, drywall mud, or kitty litter buckets, or their lids, NO oil or antifreeze jugs, no matter if they are labeled #1 or #2, NO #5's, NO #7's, NO plastic shopping bags, return these to the supermarket where you get them from. We say NO LIDS because we need you to REMOVE the lids from the #1 and #2 jugs and bottles you bring. Also, anything you can compress such as milk jugs or 2-liter soda bottles is helpful.

Magazines, Catalogs and Phone Books These all go in the same bin, no need to sort, and can be dumped in the bin loose. NO tape, string, or plastic bags.

Newspaper Loose or in paper bags, NO plastic bags, NO string or NO tape.

Steel, Tin, or Bi-metal Cans Rinsed please.....labels and lids are okay.

Clear and Brown Glass These are in separate bins (one for clear glass and one for brown glass), need to be clean, lids need to be removed, labels are okay.

Green and Blue Glass These can be mixed, need to be rinsed, no lids, labels are okay. They go in the blue plastic barrels.

**Penn Township Recycling
assisted by
Troop 419 of Selinsgrove**

The Penn Township recycling center is a benefit to you and reduces the amount of waste you sit at your curb each week at "x" amount of dollars per bag and reduces the material sitting in our landfill. If you have any recycling questions or comments please e-mail Brenda at bpenn township@yahoo.com or call the office at 374-4778.



Recycle your CFL's
(Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs)
at the Penn Township Office,
Monday thru Friday, during regular office hours,
8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

**Bulbs contain a small amount of mercury therefore
MUST be in a plastic zip locked bag.**

Estimated \$47 in energy cost over the life of a CFL
versus incandescent.

**ANOTHER RECYCLING OPTION IN PENN TOWNSHIP
is at the Selinsgrove Center.**

The large brick building along State School Road,
look for large recycling center sign, place your items on
the dock, which may include:

**corrugated (only) cardboard
newspapers (clean and dry)
magazines
aluminum**

Hours are: Monday thru Friday 8am - 3:30pm. Please
sign the clipboard (hanging inside the door), with Penn
Township Resident, add your name if you choose, but
do note that you are a Penn Township resident.

Halloween Scavenger Hunt

Planning a scavenger hunt can be as much fun as the hunt itself. Here is a scavenger hunt list for a general Halloween theme. You can add or subtract items as you see fit. Remember..... these items should be found and never stolen. Get permission if you need to get an item from your neighbor, or you could be adding handcuffs to the list!

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Acorn | Miniature Pumpkin |
| Apple | Orange leaf |
| Broom | Piece of White Fabric |
| Bubble Gum | Pie Tin |
| Black fingernail polish or black lipstick | Pumpkin Seeds |
| Candle | Shot Glass |
| Candy Corn | Spider Web Real or Fake |
| Cross | Stake |
| Fangs | Straw or Hay |
| Garlic | Taffy |
| Gourd | Thread |
| Hershey Kiss | Today's Newspaper |
| Indian Corn | Tootsie Roll |
| Lock of Black Hair | Tree Bark |
| Marshmallow | Vine |
| Matches | Whistle |
| | Wrench |

DID YOU KNOW.....

The custom of carving Jack O'Lanterns began in ancient Ireland, although the original Jack O'Lanterns were carved in turnips, beets, and even potatoes. Read all about the Stingy Jack and the original Jack O'Lantern at www.thelaboroflove.com/forum/oct00/jacko/html or www.history.com/content/halloween.



The world's largest pumpkin weighs 1385lbs.

Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.

Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the roman harvest festival that honors Pamaona, the goddess of fruit trees.

Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.

Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.

In 1692, 19 people were accused of being witches and were hung. One gentleman who refused to stand trial for witchcraft was made to lie down in the street while they placed a board on top of him and piled rocks and boulders on the board until he was crushed to death.

Halloween Sites filled with fright.....

- www.halloween.com
- www.ghostplace.com
- www.halloweenghoststories.com
- www.theholidayspot.com/halloween
- www.halloween-online.com
- www.halloweencostumeideas.com
- www.partygameideas.com/halloween-games
- www.party411.com/halloween-recipes



PENN TOWNSHIP

228 CLIFFORD ROAD

Phone: 570-374-4778

Fax: 570-374-4931

Roadmaster: 570-374-4258

E-mail: penntwp@ptd.net



WE'RE ON THE WEB.....FINALLY!!

www.penn-township.net

Although we are still under construction, we hope to be completely up and running very soon. Take a look and let us know what you want to see. Drop us a line at penntwp@ptd.net.

When complete, we will have minutes, ordinances, current information, Township photos, etc.

We hope to have a calendar on the site that would include all Township meeting dates, such as Supervisors', Planning Commission, and the Recreation Board (ESRRA). We would also include any Zoning or Public Hearing dates, and tax collection dates and times.

TOWNSHIP ALERTS

If you would like an email alert of any Township emergency, road closings, recycling date reminders, and other community happenings, just drop us an email at penntwp@ptd.net. We will include you in our "Penn Township Email Address Book" and alert you to things you need to know.

We would not flood your email box (we promise!) and would never give out your email address (double promise!!). We are just looking for more ways to keep our residents informed.

Technology has brought us so far, and it is time to take advantage of it!



WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT!

www.penn-township.net
www.eastsnyderpark.com
www.snydercounty.org
www.USA.gov

