

# Penn Township

## 228 Clifford Road

## Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Useful Information for all Penn Township Residents

Winter 2012/2013

## RECYCLE CENTER IS OPEN AND ITS FREE!!!

### **When is it open?**

Currently, our recycling center is open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk. Unfortunately, if this site is abused, (i.e. someone dropping off garbage or junk), we will have to lock the bins and only have them open while the Township office is open.

### **What materials can I bring?**

New items we are accepting are: High grade office paper, corrugated cardboard, chipboard (cereal boxes, etc), junk mail, books, phone books. We still accept clear, blue/green, and brown glass, tin cans, newspaper, magazines and catalogs, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, and aluminum cans. (see recycling insert)

### **How about pizza boxes?**

**NO!** As we explained in the last newsletter, pizza boxes typically have grease and food residue. Food is a contaminant. Pizza boxes and any chipboard with food residue **cannot** be recycled and should be thrown in the trash.

### **How will we know where things go?**

There are information sheets in a box on the fence at the right-hand corner of the site. Included is a detailed drawing of the bins with detailed explanations of what can go in each bin. There are also signs on the bins.

### **Do I have to clean anything?**

**Yes!** ALL items and materials must be clean and dry .

### **What about lids?**

Lids are accepted on #1 and #2 plastic bottles and tin or bimetal cans. Lids are **NOT** accepted on glass bottles/jars. Remember - the lid on glass bottles/jars are not made of glass, therefore you cannot include them.

### **What about labels?**

Labels are accepted on all plastic and tin cans.

### **Can I just throw my whole bag of stuff in the bin?**

**NO!** All containers used to bring your materials must go home with you. No bags, string, tape or anything else used can go into the bin. Misuse and will be a factor in limiting the 7 day a week service.

### **Will the Boy Scouts still help me?**

The Boy Scouts will continue to volunteer on the second Saturday of each month from 8am until noon to assist residents with their recycling.

### **Can my friend bring her stuff too?**

Yes, this service is available to residents, businesses and neighboring communities without facilities.

### **Is there a fee?**

No! 90% of site cost was obtained through a DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) 902 grant through Snyder County.

**SEE DETAILED RECYCLING INSERT FOR MORE INFO**



Have a Happy and Healthy  
Holiday Season!

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.  
Live the life you have imagined.  
*Henry David Thoreau*

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<p><b>Board of Supervisors</b>          Jon Payne, Chairman          William Moyer, V-Chairman          Frederick R Ulrich</p> <p><b>Roadmaster</b>          Brandon Sechrist</p> <p><b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>          Robin Bieber</p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b>          Dan Kuruna, Chairman          Mike Savidge, V-Chairman          Shane Kerstetter          Ben Moyer          Mike Kuhns          Bill Moyer          Cornelius Heeren          Wiest, Muolo, Swinehart, Noon &amp; Bathgate, Solicitors</p> <p><b>Planning Commission Sec.</b>          Brenda Moyer</p> <p><b>Zoning Officer</b>          Tom Snyder</p> <p><b>Zoning Hearing Board</b>          Ken Herman          Joan Lindow          Jan Ritter          James Fry, Alternate          Robert Cravitz, Solicitor</p> <p><b>Recycling Coordinator</b>          Brenda Moyer</p> <p><b>Emergency Management Co.</b>          Frederick R Ulrich</p> <p><b>Recreation Board</b>          Don Harnum, President          Beth Kapsar, Treasurer          Malcolm Fleming          Pete DeWire          Jim Taylor          Tim Laubscher          Bruce Teats          Scott Kerstetter          Jon Payne          April Metzger          Brad Longacre</p> <p><b>Township Solicitor</b>          Wiest, Muolo, Swinehart, Noon &amp; Bathgate, Solicitors</p> <p><b>Township Auditors</b>          William Bucher          Jacqueline Crissman          Chris Kenawell</p> <p><b>Township Contact Info:</b>          374-4778 - phone          374-4931 - fax          pennntp@ptd.net - email</p> <p><b>Township Website</b>  <a href="http://www.penn-township.net">www.penn-township.net</a></p>	<p><b>Ron Zeiders, Tax Collector</b>  <b>PO Box 452</b>  <b>Selinsgrove, PA 17870</b>  <b>374-8401</b></p> 	<p><b>PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY</b>          (sewer and water)</p> <p>The PTMA office is <u>NOT</u> located in the Penn Township Building. Payments are accepted at Northumberland National Bank on Lori Lane or in Weis Markets (at the Susquehanna Mall) or by mail to:          PTMA          PO Box 155          Selinsgrove, PA 17870</p> <p>If you have any questions call 374-8256.</p> <p><b>TOWNSHIP ROADS VS STATE ROADS</b>          We receive many calls and complaints about roads that are actually state roads. State roads are: Salem Road, Middle Creek Road, W Sassafras St, State School Road, S Market St, Clifford Road (from Rt 522 to Middle Creek Road), Fair Oak Road (from Route 204 to the Salem Rd intersection), Rt35, Rt522, and Rt204. These roads are maintained by PennDot and any calls regarding these roads should be made to our local PennDot office at 372-9100.</p> <p><b>READY FOR WINTER?</b>          Whether you hate it or are a fan, winter is almost here. As always, the road crew will be out there salting, cinderizing and plowing the roads when necessary. Please allow plenty of room between your vehicle and any plow truck. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, use extreme caution.          To avoid a fine or create a hazardous situation during a snow event, all vehicles must be removed from Township streets and roads. Do not shovel or plow snow from your driveway or sidewalks back onto any road, whether it is a state or township road.          Mailboxes are erected in the right-of-way as required. Be aware the Township is not responsible for any snow flying off of the plow and damaging a mailbox.</p> <p><b>WINTER DRIVING TIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before snow and ice arrive, roads could be wet and covered with leaves. This can be as dangerous as ice.</li> <li>Turn on headlights, using low beams when traveling in snow.</li> <li>Increase your following distance. In winter weather, travel at least 8 - 10 seconds behind the car in front of you.</li> <li>If you skid, don't brake or accelerate. Remove your foot from the gas, and gently steer your car in the direction of the skid. When your car starts heading in the desired direction, carefully straighten the wheel.</li> <li>Have a personal safety kit in your vehicle which should include: shovel, jumper cables, blanket, medicine, a change of clothes, sand or kitty litter for traction, flashlight and new batteries, safety flare/warning device, water and non-perishable foods. This is especially important if you drive long distances.</li> <li>Always let someone know where you are going, when you should be there and the route you are taking to get there.</li> <li>Parents of new drivers - review safe winter driving tips with children.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND REMEMBER.....IT'S THE LAW</b>          Remember to remove all snow and ice from your vehicle before driving, especially from the hood, windows and roof. Motorists who fail to do so can cause property damage and/or injury to others and face fines and possible court costs.          If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to township roads or the road crew, contact the Penn Township Roadmaster at 374-4258. If you get the answering machine, leave a clear message with your name and number. All calls will be returned as soon as possible.</p> 
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**DO YOU HAVE A PORTABLE BASKETBALL HOOP?**

The Township is reminding residents who have portable basketball backboards to roll them back from the curb or edge of the street when they are not in use.

The backboards can interfere with street sweeping, leaf collection and snow plowing. Residents who have questions can call the Township at 374-4778.

**CENSUS INFORMATION FOR PENN TOWNSHIP**

YEAR	1990	2000	2010
TOTAL POPULATION	3,208	3781	4324

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

[www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net) - General Township information with meeting minutes, current events, park, composting, flood and recycling information.

[www.escg.shutterfly.com](http://www.escg.shutterfly.com) - East Snyder Community Garden (across from East Snyder Park) website.

[www.readyPA.org](http://www.readyPA.org) - Extensive collection of information relative to PA residents, including but not limited to, Social Services, Historic PA, Health Services, Housing, Education Services, Employment, Driver and Vehicle Services, Business Services, etc..

[www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com) - Travel information to go! Alerts, road conditions, traffic cameras, construction updates, train and bus information, delays and traffic maps.

[www.PACommutes.com](http://www.PACommutes.com) - Website with options and information for alternative transportation in PA, including walking, biking, ridesharing and carpooling, etc., and the impact of using alternative methods.

[www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net) - The bay was referred to in the stormwater runoff article on page 7. This is a great website.

**DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES**

In 2006, Penn Township passed a Transient Merchant Ordinance #2006-04, this requires anyone selling door-to-door to obtain a permit. Each person must produce a photo ID. A copy of this ID is kept on file in the Township office, along with contact information for the company they represent. Any person who comes to your door should have photo ID to verify who they are along with a permit issued by the Township. School kids selling items through the school, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are exempt from this law.

**BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!****CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION**

Beginning December 27, 2012 and continuing through the third week of January, the road crew will be picking up Christmas trees. The trees MUST be free of all lights, decorations and tree stands. Our crew will not collect any tree that is not completely stripped. You are welcome to take your tree to the compost site between dawn and dusk any day. Same rules apply, no decorations, lights or tree stands.

**DO FRIDAYS MAKE YOU SEE RED...****The VFW, Post 6631 on Route 522**

next to Wendt's Pork Palace, is selling red t-shirts and polos to help support homeless veterans.

Every Friday, August thru December, show your support by wearing your red shirt. The "red shirt Fridays" shirts have the phrase "home of the free because of the brave" on the back.

You can go to the Township's website at [www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net) for an order form, stop in or call the VFW at 374-3912.



This is a great way to show community support for our troops and their families and that we are appreciative of their service and sacrifice.

**EAST SNYDER COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The East Snyder Community Garden has recently transitioned from Penn State Cooperative Extension leadership to being self-run. The garden has become a fixture on University Avenue across from East Snyder Park. Gardeners bring their family and friends to the garden to help plant and weed. The harvests are shared with friends and donations made to local food pantries. When the garden's future became tenuous, the gardeners came together to ensure the longevity of the garden. In September, officers were elected to head a new steering committee. Since then, they have drafted by-laws, acquired an EIN number, secured a bank account, a post office box and created a budget. The 2013 Budget is divided into an operating budget and a project budget. The operating budget includes essentials such as rent, water and liability insurance. East Snyder Community Garden (ESCG) is hoping to raise \$600 to support the operating budget and continue gardening next year. Any fundraising beyond that will go toward the project budget.

This includes expenses like permanent garden plot markers, purchasing a used riding mower and installing additional water spigots. Although items in the project budget are not necessary, they would help to improve the whole gardening experience. The fundraising projects planned include selling local business discount cards, baked goods and applying for grants. Successful fundraising would also negate any increase in plot rentals. ESCG is accepting early registrations from past garden plot users. You can find registration forms and more garden information on their website at [www.escg.shutterfly.com](http://www.escg.shutterfly.com), or email them for at [escgpa@gmail.com](mailto:escgpa@gmail.com). Applications are also available on the

Township website at [www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net) and in the Township office.

**ESCG PLOT FEES + INFO...**

30' x 30' plot - \$10

12' x 12' plot - \$5

4' x 10' raised bed - \$8

Walkways between plots

Garden from dawn to dusk

Water on site

Plots available April 1 through October 31

A completed registration form is required to rent a garden plot.



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As you know, Hurricane Sandy recently hit the East Coast and devastated millions of Americans particularly in New Jersey and New York. In our area, power outages were minimal and rainfall did not reach the predicted amounts. Overall, we were very fortunate. But with the severity and frequency of major storms in the past few years, it could be a matter of time before it's our turn. So, we've provided some useful information for severe weather an emergency situation.

**BASIC EMERGENCY PLAN** - Actually having a plan is one of the most important steps you can take in disaster preparedness. Knowing what to do and how to do it can help your family manage emergency situations with less worry, fear and uncertainty.

- Decide what you and your family would do in each potential emergency situation.
- Draw a floor plan of your home showing escape routes.
- Choose a place away from your neighborhood where family members can meet in case you are separated and cannot return home.
- Identify a friend or relative who lives out of the area for family members to contact if you are separated.
- Post emergency numbers by every phone and teach children how and when to dial 911.

**BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY** - Having a disaster supply kit ready to take with you at a moment's notice ensures that you will have necessary supplies no matter how fast you may need to evacuate. Pack supplies in duffel bags or backpacks and keep them in a designated place.

- **Water** - Store at least one gallon of water per day for each person and each pet, more for hot climates, pregnant women or persons who are sick. Store at least a three day supply, more if feasible. Observe expiration dates and replace stored water every six months. Store water in tightly sealed, non-breakable plastic, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers.  
Note - caffeinated drinks and alcohol dehydrate the body, which increases the need for drinking water.
- **Food** - Any food chosen for an emergency food supply should have a long storage life, i.e. canned and boxed foods. Remember to pack a manual operated can opener. Pack foods in sealed metal or plastic containers, and foods for infants and family members with special diet requirements.
- **Storage of Food** - Keep at least a three day supply on hand. Canned foods and dry mixes will remain fresh for about two years. The ideal location is a cool, dry, dark place, preferably 40 - 60 degrees F. Keep foods away from heat sources, ranges or refrigerator exhausts, and petroleum products such as gasoline, oil, paints and solvents.
- **Tools and Equipment** - Some basics to be sure not to forget - Have ready a battery powered radio, flashlights, spare batteries, re-sealable plastic bags, washcloths and towels, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, heavy duty garbage bags, heavy duty aluminum foil, change of clothing with extra socks and shoes for each person, blankets, toiletries and a first aid kit. Use battery powered flashlights and lanterns instead of candles, or gas lanterns to reduce the chance of fire.

## PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

*If you plan to use a generator, operate it outside only - not in the basement or garage. To safely connect to house wiring, have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch. Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Never try to power house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as 'back feeding'. It can lead to the electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer.*

### POWER LINES

In the aftermath of a major storm, be aware of hazards presented by downed power lines. If you see a power line on the ground, don't assume that it is not energized or that it is insulated. Stay at least ten feet away from the wire and secure the area to keep others away as well.

If a power line falls on your car, stay inside the vehicle. It is the safest place. Warn people not to touch the car or line. Only consider leaving the car if the vehicle catches on fire or other life threatening hazards exist. Do not just step out of the car. Instead, jump free of the car with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. Once you clear the car, shuffle at least 50 feet away with both feet on the ground.

**As in all power line emergencies, call for help immediately by dialing 911.**

### SAFE AND WELL

The Red Cross has created a website to be used to register if disaster strikes.

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org>

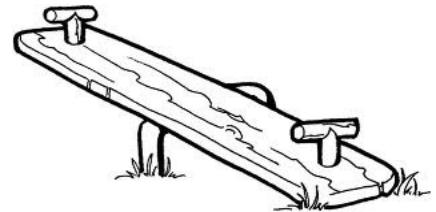
Concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as "safe and well" by clicking on the "Search Registrants" button. The results of a successful search will display a loved one's first name, last name and a brief message.

### IN CASE THE POWER GOES OUT

- Especially through the winter, keep your car's fuel tank at least half full - gas stations use electricity to operate pumps.
- Know how to manually release your electric garage door.
- Food will remain fresh in the refrigerator for about four hours. A freezer that is half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the refrigerator or freezer door if you can avoid it.
- If the power is out longer than two hours, throw away food that has a temperature of higher than 40 degrees F.
- If you have public water, check with local authorities to be sure your water is safe.
- In hot weather, try to stay cool and drink plenty of fluids to prevent heat-related illness.
- In cold weather, wear layers of clothing. Air is trapped between layers, creating a good insulator. You will feel warmer as heat can not conduct away as easily.

## EAST SNYDER PARK BY THE NUMBERS

Another busy and productive year in East Snyder Park. **1** Great Play Day II, **360** Township man hours, **15** pavilion rentals, **3** horse-shoe tournaments, **1290** dollars Township expense in utilities, **1** bocce tournament, **countless** Little League games, **1** fence Township cost **5485** dollars minus **1500** dollar donation from Penn Township Little League, **2** Little League tournaments, **2** company picnics, **1** surprise **60**th birthday party, **1** family reunion, **3** softball tournaments, **1** ASA Hall of Fame Tour. All that activity and regular park use equaled a **1719** dollar waste collection bill, Township expense. Also, **32** people from Treatment Court Community Service Program worked on **5th** day each week, March through October. With their help and **countless** hours by regular volunteers, **10** flowering trees (donated by the Sephares and Marion Gemberling families), **10** arborvitae trees (donated by Don and Grace Houseley) were planted and **1** large evergreen on Arbor Day.



**Many** volunteers worked hard to maintain your community park. This included continued work renovating fields and constant mowing.

Lots of weeding, mulching, and dead-heading the wetland garden, the pollinator garden and the additional flower beds. **10** water gators were filled to keep our new trees alive through the dry spell. Drainage was worked on, low spots were filled and seeding was done. Number **10** screenings have been delivered to enhance the **1.41** miles of the walking path.

The East Snyder Regional Recreation Association held **9+** Board meetings. This Board consists of **11** area residents that help guide the development of East Snyder Park. **2013** promises to be just as productive.

[www.eastsnyderpark.com](http://www.eastsnyderpark.com)



## EAST SNYDER PARK MODERN RESTROOM PROJECT

How much does it cost to provide a modern restroom to East Snyder Park? 25K, 50K, or 100K? If your first thought was 100K, you are correct. This price tag will include public water, a sewer pump station, and a 24' x 22' building with all the fixtures.

Contributions to date toward this project include a donation from the Northway Fund, a corporate donor advised fund at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation (CSCF). The Northway Fund was established in 2010 by a dear friend of the park, the late Ken Battram. Northway Industries, founded by Ken in 1966, makes tax deductible gifts to the fund each year. Officers from Northway advise CSCF in dispersing grants from the Northway Fund to support various causes including projects at East Snyder Park. The Northway Fund is committing approximately 45K to the modern restroom project.

The East Snyder Regional Recreation Association plans to commit 5K - 6K to the project, and The Mustard Seed of downtown Selinsgrove, a faithful supporter of East Snyder Park, recently donated 1K and will be used toward this project. Other continuing supporters include Lowes Home Improvement and Steve Bogush of Express Lube on The Strip. Both will be donating materials for this project. Penn Township Supervisors are proposing approximately \$32K toward this project.

If you are moved to contribute please contact Pete DeWire at 259-1838 or the Township office at 374-4778. All donations are tax deductible. See photo below for a recent generous contribution.

### Office of Voter Registration Snyder County Courthouse

PO Box 217  
Middleburg, PA 17842  
Phone (570) 837-4286  
Fax (570) 837-4282

[www.snydercounty.org](http://www.snydercounty.org)  
[www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

**Patricia P. Nace**  
[pnace@snydercounty.org](mailto:pnace@snydercounty.org)  
Election Director

**Bobbi Landis**  
[blandis@snydercounty.org](mailto:blandis@snydercounty.org)  
Voter Registration Administrator

Use any of the above contact information to confirm whether or not you are registered, to get registered or apply for an absentee ballot.



Mifflinburg Bank & Trust supports East Snyder Park with a \$3000 donation to replace the scoreboard at DeWire field.

Pictured L-R:  
Fred Ulrich, Supervisor, Penn Township;  
Jeffrey Kapsar, President & CEO, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust;  
Donald Harnum, Board President, ESRRA;

### November 6, 2012 Presidential Election Recap

#### Penn Township #1 (Graysonview Location)

Registered Voters.....	1036
Ballots Cast.....	750
Percentage of Voters ..	72.39%

#### Penn Township #2 (Clifford Road Location)

Registered Voters.....	1235
Ballots Cast.....	879
Percentage of Voters ..	71.17%

*Way to go Penn Township!*

## 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 10% 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 floodplain 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](mailto:bpenntownship@yahoo.com)

Penn Township continues to update the names, addresses, and phone numbers of our "need to call/evacuation" list in case of an emergency. Our Zoning Officer also enforces the Floodplain 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 prone to 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 at 374-4258 to report a problem with debris, fallen trees or anything else that would hinder water flow. Drop boxes are for water collections - not your grass clippings or other debris.

## FLOOD GAUGE INFORMATION

Flooding or the risk of flooding seems to be at the front of our minds at least once a year. To follow are web addresses for the gauges that measure the water height for Penns Creek and the Susquehanna River.

When either of the sites opens, in dark blue you will see "available data for this site" with a drop down box. In the drop down there are selections for current and historical observations, daily data, daily statistics, daily monthly and annual statistics, peak flow and other measurements and a map locating the exact site of the gauge.

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?01555000>  
Penns Creek water gauge (flood stage 8ft)

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?201554000>  
Susquehanna River gauge at Sunbury (flood stage 24 ft)

## TOWNSHIP COMPOST SITE

Located at the end of Gaugler Lane, across from Salem Church. Follow Gaugler Lane to the end and through the gate.

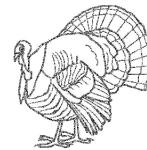
**Only those people dropping items at the compost site are permitted in this area.**

This service is free to our residents, and is open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk. You can take your basic grass clippings, other lawn and garden waste, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), shrub waste, branches and unpainted or untreated wood.

There are signs indicating where the different items belong. Do not mix the materials.

**To generate quality mulch and compost there are items that are absolutely not acceptable at this site and include:**

- cat or dog waste
- meat or fish bones
- fat, grease, lard or oils
- dairy products
- plastic or metals
- weeds and weed seeds



Also not acceptable are your delivery containers.

Please take your garbage bags, flower pots, etc., with you.

*Leaving these items behind is the same as illegal dumping and/or littering!*

**Wood and coal ashes: A separate pile for these ashes.**

**Do not bring ashes to the Township building and do not mix any ashes with compost materials.**

## ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

**What is it and why is it important?**

An **Elevation Certificate** documents the height of the lowest floor of an existing structure. The height is certified relative to the Base Flood Elevation of the property on which the structure is built.

The **Base Flood Elevation** is also known as the "100-year flood elevation" and is itself set relative to sea-level.

An **Elevation Certificate** is an important part of determining the cost of flood insurance.

An **Elevation Certificate** is also required if you are considering construction in a floodplain and to determine compliance with Floodplain Management Ordinances.

An **Elevation Certificate** is typically prepared by a licensed surveyor and could cost hundreds of dollars. Before commissioning this work, however, there are a few other places you can look:

If purchasing a new property ask the seller if he/she has a copy of an **Elevation Certificate** for the property.

The municipality where the property is located may have copies of any **Elevation Certificate** issued in conjunction with the construction of the home.

Ask your realtor for assistance in tracking down an **Elevation Certificate** that may previously have been commissioned for the property and its structures. If the home sold within the last seven years, the attorney who handled the prior closing may have it on file.

The current holder of the mortgage on the property (if any) may have obtained a copy of an **Elevation Certificate** for the property when the mortgage on the property was originated or purchased.

## STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION... AND HOW PENN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS CAN REDUCE IT

Stormwater runoff is rain that falls on streets, parking areas, sports fields, gravel lots, rooftops or other developed land and flows directly into our local streams, creeks, rivers and eventually ends up in the Chesapeake Bay.

Rain picks up and mixes with what's on the ground:

- Oil, grease, metals and coolants from vehicles;
- Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals from gardens and homes;
- Bacteria from pet wastes and failing septic systems;
- Soil from construction sites and other bare ground;
- Soaps from car or equipment washing; and
- Accidental spills, leaky storage containers, tobacco spit and whatever else ends up on the ground.

With rain and flow, contaminated water runs into nearby gutters and storm drains, heading straight to our local waterways and ending up in the Chesapeake Bay.

### What can you do?

*The Eastern Snyder County Regional Authority (ESCRA) treatment plant can't solve stormwater pollution, because stormwater runoff comes from small, individual sources in all parts of the watershed.*

It is a problem that everyone plays a part in solving. It is a problem residents can change by stopping small, individual activities that cause pollution and result in large-scale pollution. Stormwater is a problem that communities can work to manage to prevent runoff as development takes place.

**While the following are equally important, by choosing even one or two,  
YOU can do a lot to help minimize stormwater pollution:**

1. Maintain your vehicles and fix any leaks. Never dump anything down a storm drain. Always recycle used oil, antifreeze and other fluids.
2. Wash your car at a commercial car wash rather than in the street or in your driveway. If you wash your car at home, wash it on your lawn. Drive less. Try leaving your car at home one day each week. Carpool or bike to work.
3. Combine errands when you go out. Get vehicle emissions checked and repaired or buy low emission vehicle.
4. Cut out or cut down on fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. If you do use these chemicals, follow directions and use them sparingly. Don't fertilize before a rainstorm and consider using organic fertilizers.
5. Let your lawn go golden brown in the summer months; it will rebound in the fall.
6. Your lawn clippings do not belong in storm drain drop boxes. Compost or mulch.
7. Preserve existing trees or plant new ones - trees hold rainfall and help slow and reduce stormwater runoff.
8. Consider replacing part of your lawn with native, drought-resistant plants. Add compost to planting soil and dress it with mulch to improve plant growth and reduce runoff.
9. If you are on a septic system, maintain the system. Septic systems require regular inspections, maintenance and pumping, or they will fail, cost a lot of money to fix and could pollute nearby lakes and streams. Have a professional inspector check your system regularly and have it pumped out when needed.
10. Pick up after your pets and keep animals out of streams. Scoop your dog's poop and properly dispose of it. Also, make sure fences and other structures are keeping cows, horses and other animals out of streams. Store manure in a designated area so that it doesn't wash off into nearby waterways.
11. Reduce impervious surfaces at home and increase the vegetated land cover of your property. Impervious surfaces include your roof, driveway, and patios, etc. Reduce rooftop runoff by directing your downspouts to vegetated areas, and not to the storm drain on your street. For your driveway and patios, consider putting in permeable paving or patterns of cement and brick that allow water to filter through it.
12. Take advantage of opportunities to educate yourself and your family about your local watershed. Consider volunteering for stream restoration or other local volunteer projects.



## CHESAPEAKE BAY destination of your stormwater runoff and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Susquehanna River is the Bay's largest freshwater contributor.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular river, lake, bay or other body of water.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed stretches across 64,000 sq miles.

17 million people live in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and affect the health of the bay in ways they may not realize.

Chesapeake Bay is a estuary.

A estuary is a body of water where fresh and salt water mix. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed is the largest of more than 130 in the United States.

The average depth of the bay is 21'. Some troughs reach 174' deep. These deeper troughs are believed to be remnants of the Susquehanna River.

Chesapeake Bay receives half of its volume (18 trillion gallons) from the Atlantic Ocean. The remainder comes from the watershed.

17% of phosphorus, 11% of nitrogen and 9% of sediment loads to the Bay come from stormwater.

Between 1990 and 2007, impervious surfaces associated with growth in single-family homes are estimated to have increased by approximately 34% while the Bay watershed population increased by only 18 percent. This increase in impervious cover indicates that our personal footprint on the landscape is growing.



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## **PERMITS ARE REQUIRED**

Zoning Permit requirements are different for each municipality. In Penn Township, zoning permits are required for any new construction, including additions, decks, porches, garages, sheds, pools, all new homes (stick-built, mobile and modular), agriculture buildings, and more. Applications are available at the Township office or on our website at [www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net). Information you will need: the size of project, setbacks to the property lines and an overview drawing of your project which will include dimensions and setbacks and any current buildings on your property. If you are constructing a new home, you will need a plot plan, a set of house plans, a driveway permit issued by the Township if connecting to a township road. We require a copy of a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) obtained from Penn Dot if connecting to a state road. A copy of your sewer permit, whether private or public and a copy of your water permit if connecting to public water.

The cost of a zoning permit is calculated by the value of your project. \$20.00 for the first \$1,000 of value and \$3.00 for each \$1,000 of value thereafter. For example, your new deck will have a value of \$10,000. First \$1,000 = \$20. Remainder is \$9,000.  $9 \times 3 = 27$ . Add the original 20.  $27 + 20 = \$47$  permit. Also, since our permits start at \$20, even if your project is less than \$1000, your cost will still be \$20.00. For more information, call us at 374-4778.

All of these projects (with the exception of agriculture buildings and decks less than 30" in height) also require a Building Permit. The Township contracts with Central Keystone Council of Governments (COG), Lewisburg, (NOT Seda-Cog) to issue Building Permits and perform the state-required inspections for these permits. For more information, contact their office at 877-457-9401 or visit their website - [www.ckcog.com](http://www.ckcog.com)

If you are doing interior work or remodeling, you may still need a Building permit from the COG. Unless you are physically changing the structure, you will not need a Zoning Permit.

