

# Penn Township

228 Clifford Road  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870  
570-374-4778  
penntwp@ptd.net  
www.penn-township.net

Spring/Summer 2014

## SPRING IS HERE!!!

Yes, spring is finally here. Old Man Winter may be gone, but he certainly left behind a few messes! Our crews have begun cleaning out drop boxes, pipes and ditches, sweeping roads, replacing signs, and making repairs where necessary. In conjunction with these activities, we have included some articles explaining why you can not dump anything in these drop boxes. See the article below for details.

**East Snyder Park** is gearing up for a productive 2014 season! See page 4 for all the happenings, including the recent 5K Color Me Purple Run/Walk with 160 participants, wow!

**A veteran's memorial monument** is in the planning stages. You can support this project by purchasing a brick to honor a loved one. See page 4 for details.

**What is an Ordinance?** - See the most recent ordinances adopted by the Board of Supervisors on page 2.

**Must Read** - See pages 6 and 7 for really *updated* flooding information pertaining specifically to our Penn Township and our residents. It's actually pretty interesting.

Also updated is the **zoning permit information** on the back page.

What do

## *Fair Oak Road* and the bridge on *Old Colony Road* at Route 204 have in common?

Come 2015, the bridge across the unnamed tributary on Old Colony Road will be replaced. Old Colony Road will be closed for approximately eight weeks and Penn DOT is proposing Fair Oak Road as a detour option.

So get ready Fair Oak Road residents, spruce up the joint, paint the house, wash the windows, repave your driveway (no permit required for that!) cut the grass, etc..... because you could have lots of spectators on your road.

Do you think all of Fair Oak Road is a township road? Nope, the section from Route 204 to Salem Road belongs to Penn DOT. Feel free to call the local Penn DOT office with your concerns. 570-372-9100.

Penn Township has contacted Penn Dot about the anticipated detour, noting the current condition of Fair Oak Road and a proposal to add more traffic. Penn DOT came out, took a look and is planning some repairs to the road prior to the detour. Let's hope!

*See page 7 with the full article on the bridge replacement.*

## STORMWATER, STORM DRAINS AND DROP BOXES

Never dump or sweep anything into storm drains and drop boxes located in lawns and streets of Penn Township. Why? What's the big deal...if I just drop this stuff in here, out of sight out of mind! Have you ever stopped to consider the consequences of cleaning your mower deck, blowing or sweeping your grass clippings or maybe depositing pet waste into the storm drains and drop boxes in your neighborhood?

The storm drain system is designed to drain rain and only rain.

There is NO treatment or filtering of this water between the storm drains and drop boxes and our local streams and tributaries, Penn's Creek, the Susquehanna River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. Hmmm, and if you use a well as your source for water, I wonder how all this pollution might affect your drinking water?

**Do not sweep, brush, shovel, push, throw or roll any item into the drop boxes. Yes, we know there are already cinders in there, and no you cannot put yours in on purpose!**

Stormwater runoff and the debris it carries comes from small, individual sources in all parts of the watershed. It is a problem that everyone plays a role in solving. Also a problem that residents can change by stopping small, individual activities that cause pollution and result in large-scale contamination. In order to function at maximum efficiency these systems i.e. storm drains and drop boxes must remain free of debris.

Your grass clipping are small, but they add up. If you or lawn maintenance workers use leaf blowers on your yard, ask them **not** to blow grass clippings and leaves into the street or down storm drain inlets. Where is the best place for yard trimmings?

- Blow grass clippings back onto the lawn, where they become a natural fertilizer.
- Rake or blow leaves into a compost pile, where they can decompose without odor.
- Use the compost site provided by Penn Township on Gaugler Lane for your clippings.



## We're doing it again! Snyder County Night Out August 26, 2014

Last year's

Snyder County Night Out

held in the East Snyder Park was a **huge** success!! The 2013 event was hosted by the Snyder County DA's office, local police depts., PSP, 911 and Penn Twp....with 94KX, activities and games, food, safety programs, Life Flight, wagon rides, community service organizations and more... and **ALL FREE** with an estimated 2000 people attending!

## FIND A MISTAKE?

It is our new policy to include something for everyone. Since some people like to find errors, we try to include a few in our newsletter to meet this need.

Penn Township....always trying to please!



continued on page 5

**Board of Supervisors**

Fred Ulrich, Chairman  
Jon Payne, V-Chairman  
Brenda Moyer

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Robin Bieber

**Planning Commission**

Dan Kuruna, Chairman  
Shane Kerstetter  
Ben Moyer  
Mike Kuhns  
Derek Straub  
James Geiswite  
Cornelius Heeren  
Wiest, Muolo, Swinehart, Noon  
& Bathgate, Solicitors

**Planning Commission Sec.**

Brenda Moyer

**Zoning Hearing Board**

Ken Herman  
Joan Lindow  
Jan Ritter  
James Fry, Alternate  
Robert Cravitz, Solicitor

**Recycling Coordinator**

Brenda Moyer

**Emergency Management Co.**

Frederick R Ulrich

**Recreation Board**

Tim Laubscher, President  
Pete DeWire, Vice Pres  
Beth Kapsar, Treasurer  
April Metzger, Sec  
Jim Taylor  
Bruce Teats  
Steve Bogush  
Jon Payne  
Brad Longacre

**Township Solicitor**

Wiest, Muolo, Noon, Swinehart  
& Bathgate

**Township Auditors**

Beth Kapsar  
Jacqueline Crissman  
Chris Kenawell

**Township Contact Info:**

570-374-4778 - phone  
570-374-4931 - fax  
penntwp@ptd.net - email

**Township Website**

www.penn-township.net

**What is an Ordinance?**

An ordinance is a law. They are laws passed by the Board of Supervisors to address local issues. Any newly proposed ordinance is advertised and residents are invited to respond before they are adopted. For full copies of the ordinances briefed below, see the township website or stop by the township office for a copy.

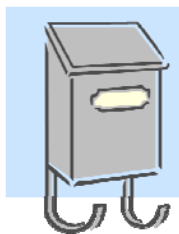
**Ordinance 2012 - 02 – High Grass and Weeds** - An ordinance of the Township of Penn, prohibiting brush, grass and weeds in excess of a height of ten inches, providing for the removal thereof; providing for notice for compliance and certain remedies and penalties for noncompliance.

**Ordinance 2014 – 01 - Right-of-Way restrictions during snowfall or weather emergencies** - An ordinance of the Township of Penn, restricting parking and placing property on or along township roads during and following any snowfall or weather emergency.

**Ordinance 2014 - 02 – Speed Limit** - An ordinance of the Township of Penn, establishing the speed limit for motor vehicles traveling on Old Colony Road, between the sharp curve west of Quarry Road and Route 204, to 25 mph from its existing speed limit of 40 mph.

**Ordinance 2014 - 03 – Speed Limit** - An ordinance of the Township of Penn, establishing the speed limit for motor vehicles traveling on Clifford Road, between Salem Road and Route 522, to 25 mph from its existing speed limit of 35 mph.

*Office Closed?*



*You can drop your zoning permit applications, pavilion rentals, etc into the black box beside our front door. This drop box is **NOT** for your taxes or water/sewer payments. They will not get to the appropriate people. We do, however, accept chocolate bars for the office staff.*

**COMMUNITY AID BIN**

Located beside the recycle bins, the Community Aid Bin is for clothing, shoes and small household items that will fit into bin. Nothing may be left outside of the bin.



Primary Election Day  
May 20, 2014

General Election Day  
November 4, 2014

**PENN 1**

If you live on the south side or Graysonview side of 522, you will vote at the Graysonview Assisted Living Facility  
29 Graysonview Court

**PENN 2**

If you live on the north side or Selinsgrove Center side of 522, you will vote at the Penn Township Building  
228 Clifford Road

Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm.

**SEWAGE CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Beginning in 2013, Dan Page became the Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) for Penn Township. An SEO issues septic permits, inspects septic systems, and reviews properties when a complaint is received about a private septic system.

You can contact Dan at 800-639-3641.

If your home is connected to a public sewer system, you receive a quarterly bill from PTMA, and do not have a septic system.

**REAL ESTATE AND PER CAPITA TAXES**

Ron Zeiders, Tax Collector  
PO Box 452  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870  
570-374-8401



Our collector provides hours here in the township building. The dates are always printed on your tax bills. Fall hours here in the township building will be announced at a later date and will also be printed on your bills when they arrive. Please call Ron or the township office if you have questions.

**Please note: The Township office cannot accept your taxes.**

If you are mailing your taxes and would like to receive a receipt, include a self addressed stamped envelope and Mr. Zeiders will send you receipt.

**Penn Township Compost Site**

The Penn Township compost site is located at the end of Gaugler Lane, across from Salem Lutheran Church. 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. Be sure to leave your items in the correct locations.

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

- cat or dog waste;
- treated or painted wood;
- dairy products;
- building construction waste;
- meat or fish bones;
- fat, grease, lard or oils;
- plastic or metals;
- weeds and weed seeds.

Residents... Mulch and compost are free for the taking. Please help yourself.

**Delivery containers are also not accepted. Please take your garbage bags, flower pots, and any other transport containers home with you!**

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

A separate pile is available for wood and coal ashes.

This service is free to all, and open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk.

**Only those people dropping items at the compost site are permitted in this area. Inappropriate activity in this area will ensure closure of this free service.**

**Adopt a Flower Bed**

There are about 15 flower beds within the East Snyder Park each varying in size. The park and recreation board is looking for individuals or groups who would be willing to take responsibility for the upkeep of a designated bed or even a section of a larger one. It would take approximately one hour per week to keep your flower bed in shape from spring thru fall. This would be a great opportunity to give back to the community, put your gardening skills to work and add a touch of YOU to the East Snyder Park!



If you are interested and we can get you introduced to your flower bed, look for Pete or Cookie in the park, they can hook you up, or call the township office.

**Charity Tractor Ride**

Middlecreek Valley Antique Association will hold a Charity Tractor Ride on June 14, rain date June 15. The tractors will travel parade-style through sections of Penn Twp. and Middlecreek Twp.

At 11 am the parade will leave the show grounds on Old Colony Road and will travel as noted. Salem Road, Fair Oak Road, Herman Road, Ridgeview Road, and Salem to Kratzer Road in Penn Twp. The parade will continue into Middlecreek Twp via Hollow, Dogwood, to Smalsh Bar- rick and Church. Then returning into Penn Twp. on Foxboro Road, onto Salem Road and finishing the parade back out Old Colony Road to the show grounds.

This is nearly a 15 mile route expecting to take @ 2 hours. If you see these guys and gals, give them plenty of room and tip your hat to that man (or woman) up on that tractor!

For more information contact Mike Lessman at 570-837-0156 or check the association's website at [www.mvaapa.org](http://www.mvaapa.org).



**East Snyder Community Gardens**

**Located along University Ave. across from East Snyder Park.**

**The 2014 growing season is under way but there is still plenty of time to get your 30 X 30 plot and start your garden.**

**Call 570-374-1525 or visit the community garden website at [escgpa.org](http://escgpa.org) for more information.**



Snyder County Libraries are using the coolest fundraising idea... You can 'own a day' at the four Snyder County Libraries. With a \$50 donation you or some one designated by you can be honored at all four libraries. This would include a certificate sent to the honoree, a bookplate placed in the honorees favorite book, signage at all four branches, name on the Gelnett video display, name on library receipts on that day, noted on the library website and Facebook page, and when phones are answered the 'owner' of that day will also be recognized.

To get your day, check out the library website or call Pam Ross at 570-374-7163.



**PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

(sewer and water)

The PTMA office is **NOT** located in the Penn Township building. We **cannot** accept your sewer or water payments at the township office.

Payments are accepted at Northumberland National Bank on Lori Lane, Weis Markets (at the Susquehanna Mall) or by mail to: PTMA PO Box 155 Selinsgrove, PA 17870

The PTMA Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00PM at 2595 US 522 inside Keystone Building Products. Meetings are open to the public.

**Need more information call Susan at 570-374-8256.**

**East Snyder Park News...**



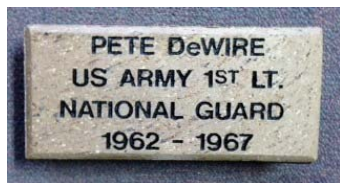
The newest project getting ready to take off at the East Snyder Park is the completion of a veteran's memorial monument. See the mock-up on the left of the plaques that will be attached to this monument.

This monument will complete an area near the entrance to the park that will be pleasing to the eye and have special meaning to many. The tribute will be a perfect way to honor and salute those who sacrificed so much, enabling each of us to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave!

The East Snyder Regional Recreation Association, our East Snyder Park board, is organizing a monogrammed brick sale that will help to fund the completion of the project. All monogrammed bricks will be installed around the base of the monument and will permanently show your support of your favorite veteran(s). Also an area will have special designation for veterans killed in action (KIA) or veterans missing in action (MIA).

The board's goal is to sell 350 - 375. Get an order form with all the details and place your order today.

**4" x 8" brick - \$50**  
up to four lines (see the example)  
**8" x 8" brick - \$100**  
up to eight lines



Order forms are available at your local veterans club, [www.eastsnyderpark.com](http://www.eastsnyderpark.com), the Penn Township office, [www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net), or from any rec board member listed on page 2.



Thanks to VFW for the generous \$1000 donation! Pictured left to right: Cookie DeWire, Harold Aucker, Donald Good, and Pete DeWire.

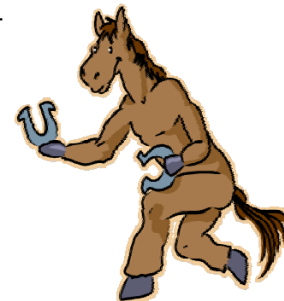
**2014 - Horseshoe League**

Horseshoe signups have passed, but you can still join! Membership fee is \$20 which allows the member to throw in singles and/or doubles.

**Singles** meet on Tuesdays, is handicapped at 80%, with three games a night.

**Doubles** will meet Thursdays, four games a night, playing cancellation shoes.

Both nights start at 7pm. Bring your own shoes, some can be provided if needed. They start league play May 6th and 8th, and run through August. Men, women, youth, beginners, and novice throwers alike are all welcome.



**Need more details, want to join or have a questions, call Rick Hawk at 570-374-3845.**

This just in...a smaller handicap accessible restroom is in the making to be constructed at or near the softball concession stand. This is another grand development for the East Snyder Park and it's users.



Held in the East Snyder Park this April 5th, 2014 was the.....  
**1st Annual**

**Color Me Purple 5K Fun Run/Walk**

It was a cold and blustery day, with some sprinkles mixed in. This did not stop nor turn away the 160 runners and their supporters who showed up to run and raise money to support the Selinsgrove Area Relay For Life. The organizers are already planning for a 2nd annual event. The township will provide more information to our residents as it becomes available.



### STORMWATER, STORM DRAINS AND DROP BOXES

#### *Why should you be concerned?*

When lawn clippings, fertilizers, soil, leaves, or animal wastes, are picked up by storm water runoff, they are carried directly to our local bodies of water. All of these materials including grass clippings contain phosphorus. According to the EPA, phosphorus is one of the most troublesome pollutants in storm water runoff and it is considered the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes, ponds and streams.

Grass clippings also contribute along with the phosphorus, nitrogen, both causing unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the waterways. Increased algae growth is observed as green algae blooms or "scums" on lakes and ponds. Too much algae

*Interesting fact: one bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain @ 1.6 ounces of phosphorus which if it ends up in lakes or ponds is enough to produce 30 to 50 pounds of algae.*



is harmful to a lake system. It blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. When it dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish. When mowing your lawn do not blow grass clippings into the street. When mowing, make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the grass clippings into the lawn not the street. If there are grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to blow them back into the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street or storm drains.

*Soil test kits are available at your Penn State Extension Office or the Snyder County Conservation District in Middleburg. (570) 837-3000 [www.snyderconservation.org](http://www.snyderconservation.org) Email: [sccd@ptd.net](mailto:sccd@ptd.net) Soil test - \$10 Water test - \$10 Your sample is then sent to Penn State University. This is at no additional cost.*

Remember, when you leave your grass clippings on the lawn, you add free fertilizer. According to the EPA, leaving your grass clippings on the lawn doesn't cause thatch buildup. Grass clippings are about 90 percent water, so they decompose very quickly. Leaving your grass clippings on the lawn can reduce your lawn's annual fertilizer needs, reduce your fertilizer costs and help to reduce water pollution.

Only apply fertilizer as needed which can be determined by a soil test. See inset for information on soil tests and water tests. Excess fertilizer may harm your lawn or pollute surface water. Another important concern is to control soil erosion around your house. When soil is left bare, rain water will run quickly over it. The moving water picks up soil particles. These soil particles have phosphorus attached to them: Some soils are very high in phosphorus as well and are another source of contamination in storm water runoff.

#### **DID YOU KNOW.....**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, in an effort to reduce the amount of yard waste being disposed of at landfills, prohibits landfills from accepting yard waste for disposal. Yard waste materials are defined as tree trimmings, shrubbery, and any other organic landscape vegetation. These items, along with grass clippings, can be taken to our compost site on Gaugler Lane.

*In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours.*

*~Mark Twain*



#### **North Shore Railroad Local Rail Excursions are Scheduled May thru December**

On a regular basis most of us have very little interaction with or know much about the trains that run near us. Except maybe every time you are in Sunbury you are held up by one. That's little inconvenience for the good the train system provides to our area.

Local rail excursions provide the opportunity for us to try something different, a great way to see some local scenery from a vantage point you might never get a glimpse from and share a fun family adventure.

These excursions are a combined effort of local organizations; the JRA (Joint Rail Authority), provides passenger insurance and owns the track on which the excursions run; North

Shore Railroad, donates locomotive service; and Penn Valley Railroad LLC, rents out vintage rail coaches and a caboose for the trips, and also provides on-board entertainment and other services. While the excursions are not free, the generosity of these local entities make the excursions doable.

Sixty rail excursions are planned in Central Pennsylvania this year, beginning May 24, 2014 in Shamokin and ending December 21, 2014 in Bellefonte. Excursions are offered leaving from Bloomsburg, Catawissa, Danville, Lock Haven, Sunbury, and Williamsport. A local example of an excursion would be on July 19<sup>th</sup> three trips, 10am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm will leave from Danville and head to either Bloomsburg or Northumberland. Another example, Fort Discovery is sponsoring an excursion on December 5, 2014 from Sunbury to Anthracite Road.

## FLOODING...and you.

Important information to all residents on prevention and insurance whether you think your home in Penn Township is susceptible to flooding or not.

If you currently purchase flood insurance or own a property in an area susceptible to flooding and have listened to any of the recent reports indicating flood insurance rates will skyrocket, please read the following article.

Keep in mind as you read...is the property you insure or are considering purchasing or insuring a primary or secondary residence? Have you let your previous flood insurance lapse? Has your property or the property you are considering been flooded repeatedly?

These are all things that could affect insurance rates.

As I write this article, the front page of today's paper notes the possibility of the 2012 legislation being repealed. I detail some of that information in this article.

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Since most homeowners' insurance policies did not cover flood, property owners who experienced a flood were often unable to rebuild.

So, the NFIP was designed to incorporate community adoption of minimum standards for new construction and development to reduce future risk of flood damage.

Pre-existing homes and businesses, however, could remain as they were. Owners of pre-existing properties were eligible for insurance at lower, subsidized rates that did not reflect the property's true flood risk. This "Grandfathering" approach prevented rate increases for existing properties when the flood risk in their area increased.

After 45 plus years, flood risks continue and the costs and consequences of flooding are increasing dramatically.

In 2012, Congress passed legislation to make the NFIP more sustainable and financially sound over the long term.

So, along comes the:

Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to change the way the NFIP is run. Key provisions of the legislation would require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes would mean premium rate increases for some – but not all -- policyholders over time.

The new law encourages financial stability of the NFIP by eliminating some artificially low rates and discounts. Most flood insurance rates will now move to reflect full risk, and flood insurance rates will rise on some policies.

Actions such as buying a property, allowing a policy to lapse, or purchasing a new policy can trigger rate changes. You should talk to your insurance agent about how changes may affect your property and your flood insurance policy.

Rates for most properties will more accurately reflect risk. Subsidized rates for non-primary/secondary residences are being phased out now. Subsidized rates for certain other classes of properties were to be eliminated over time, beginning in late 2013.

Not everyone will be affected immediately by the new law – only 20 percent of NFIP policies receive subsidies. The big thing is whether or not your insurance policy is subsidized, meaning, assisted or supported with a subsidy from the federal government. One of the reasons the NFIP is in so far 'under water'...pun intended.

- Owners of subsidized policies on non-primary/secondary residences in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will see 25 percent increase annually until rates reflect true risk – began January 1, 2013.
- Owners of subsidized policies on property that has experienced severe or repeated flooding will see 25 percent rate increase annually until rates reflect true risk – beginning October 1, 2013.
- Owners of subsidized policies on business/non-residential properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area will see 25 percent rate increase annually until rates reflect true flood risk -- beginning October 1, 2013.
- The Act of 2012 phases-out grandfathered rates and moves to risk-based rates for most properties when the community adopts a new Flood Insurance Rate Map. This will happen gradually, with new rates increasing by 20% per year for five years.

If your insured property is your primary residence and is located in the SFHA, you will be able to keep your subsidized rates unless or until:

- The property is sold;
- The policy lapses;
- You suffer severe, repeated flood losses; or
- A new policy is purchased.

What you can do now to lower insurance costs?

- Talk to your insurance agent about your options.
- An Elevation Certificate may be needed to determine your correct rate.
- Higher deductibles might lower your premium.
- Consider incorporating flood mitigation into your remodeling or rebuilding. Consider adding vents to your foundation or using breakaway walls.

Today's paper announces a bill, The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, that could reverse much of the 2012 overhaul of the flood insurance program. The bill scales back premium hikes and allows below-market insurance rates to be passed on to people buying homes in flood zones with taxpayer-subsidized policies.

However, the full effects of the bill if signed, won't be known until they are completely rolled out, much like what happened with Biggert-Waters Reform Act of 2012.

Something must be done with National Flood Insurance Program, which is currently \$27 billion in debt after payouts following a succession of recent natural disasters.

Having said all that...

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. Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government that states if a community will adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance (done) to reduce future flood risks to new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA), the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses.

The intent was to reduce future flood damage through community floodplain management ordinances and provide protection for property owners against potential losses through an insurance mechanism that requires a premium to be paid for the protection. The NFIP is meant to be self-supporting, though in 2003 the GAO (Government Accountability Office) that repetitive-loss properties cost the taxpayer about \$200 million annually. Congress originally intended that operating expenses and flood insurance claims be paid for through the premiums collected for flood insurance policies.

NFIP borrows from the U.S. Treasury for times when losses are heavy, and these loans are paid back with interest. Since 1978, the National Flood Insurance Program has paid more than \$38 billion in claims (as of March 31, 2011). More than 40 percent of that money has gone to residents of Louisiana.

But, our continued participation in this program allows our business owners and 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.

The following definitions will help with some of the terms used:

**Floodplain** - Any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source. A Flood Insurance Rate Map identifies most, but not necessarily all, of a community's floodplain as the Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Floodproofing** - Protective measures added or incorporated in a building not elevated above the base flood elevation to prevent or minimize flood damage.

**Dry floodproofing** - designs are meant to keep water from entering a building.

**Wet floodproofing** - measures allow flood waters to enter and exit a structure.

**Natural floodplain** - The function of a natural or relatively undisturbed floodplain can moderate flooding as they can retain flood waters, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and mitigate the effects of storm surges. Other beneficial functions include maintenance of water quality, recharge of groundwater, and provide for fish and wildlife habitat.

**Repetitive loss property** - A property for which two or more National Flood Insurance Program losses of at least \$1,000 each have been paid within any 10-year rolling period since 1978.

**Retrofitting** - Modifications made to an existing building or nearby grounds to protect it from flood damage. Retrofitting techniques include elevation, dry and wet floodproofing, and protection from sewer backup.

**Substantial damage** - Damage of any origin sustained by a building whereby the cost of restoring the building to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the building before the damage occurred.

**Substantial improvement** - Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement to a building, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building before the start of construction of the improvement.

**Want to know what flood zone your property is or is not located in? Call or stop by the Township office to look at the floodplain map.**

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 Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). SFHA's are in the zones with the letter A and V on our Penn Township Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). A 5% reduction in flood insurance is available for residents outside the SFHA.

What is a FIRM or Flood Insurance Rate Map? A firm map is the official map of a community, on which FEMA has defined both the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. Most FIRMs include detailed floodplain mapping for some or all of a community's floodplains.

The Township recognizes that floodplains could change over time, driven by natural and manmade changes. Good floodplain management acknowledges this, and includes thinking about how floodplains might look in the future under different scenarios like increased impervious surfaces, new fill in floodways, rising sea levels, changes in natural functions, and other factors.

Although the premium reduction attracts interest in the CRS, the most important benefits are the enhanced public safety, reduction in damage to property and public infrastructure, avoidance of economic disruption and losses, reduction in human suffering, and protection of the environment.

To be covered by a flood insurance policy (for a structure and/or its contents), a property must be in a community that participates in the NFIP. To qualify for the NFIP, a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to regulate development in flood hazard areas. The objective of the ordinance is to minimize the potential for flood damage to future development. Today, over 21,600 communities in 56 states and territories participate in the NFIP.

**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.

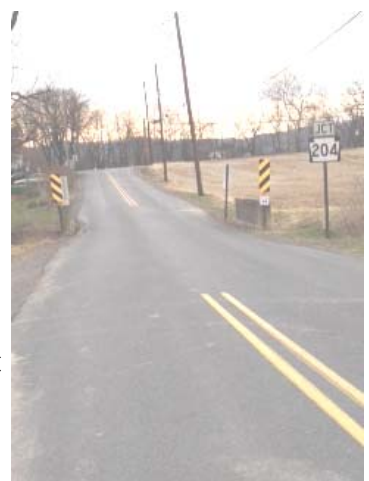
Penn Township annually updates the names, addresses, and phone numbers of our 'need to call/evacuation' list in case of an emergency. Our Zoning Officer also enforces the Flood Plain and Stormwater Management Ordinances. Contact our office for permit requirements for floodplain development. Our Emergency 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.

**The complete "Flooding and You" information has been included at least once annually in our Township newsletter and is now on our website. If you need a copy of this, please call the Township Office or e-mail Brenda at [bpenn township@yahoo.com](mailto:bpenn township@yahoo.com)**

### Bridge to be Replaced on Old Colony Road

While Penn Township owns Old Colony Road, Penn DOT still owns the bridge approaching Route 204, over an unnamed tributary to Penns Creeks. The existing concrete slab bridge will be replaced with, by Penn DOT's definition, a pre-cast reinforced concrete box culvert.

Penn DOT standards note, Old Colony Road is considered a two-lane urban local road with a current estimated average daily traffic of 1485 vehicles with 9% of the vehicles being trucks. The road consists of bituminous pavement, commonly called asphalt blacktop, little or no shoulders and a current posted speed of 25mph (recently reduced from 40mph).



The existing bridge structure, built in 1932, is a 17 foot long, single span, reinforced concrete slab with a width of 17.2 ft from curb to curb. The skew of the bridge centerline relative to the creek is @ 45 degrees, providing a 10 foot normal clear span...room for one vehicle. The existing structure depth is approximately 18 inches including the bituminous overlay and an average under clearance of approximately 6.25ft.

The bridge is considered 'functionally obsolete'. Different from 'structurally deficient' and has a sufficiency rating of 78.7. See the following definitions.

#### What is a 'functionally obsolete' bridge?

A functionally obsolete bridge is one that was built to standards but do not meet the current minimum federal clearance requirements for a new bridge. These bridges are not automatically rated as structurally deficient, nor are they inherently unsafe. Functionally obsolete bridges include those that have sub-standard geometric features such as narrow lanes, narrow shoulders, poor approach alignment or inadequate vertical under clearance. The classification functionally obsolete is also a term used as a priority status for federal bridge replacement and rehabilitation funding eligibility.

#### What is a 'structurally deficient' bridge?

The fact that a bridge is structurally deficient *does not* imply that it is unsafe. A structurally deficient bridge typically needs maintenance and repair and eventual rehabilitation or replacement to address deficiencies. To remain open to traffic, structurally deficient bridges are often posted with reduced weight limits that restrict the gross weight of vehicles using the bridges. If unsafe conditions are identified during a physical inspection, the structure will be closed.

#### What is a bridge's 'sufficiency rating'?

Sufficiency rating is a numerical value used to determine eligibility of a bridge for Federal funding, using a scale 0 to 100. The formula includes factors for structural condition, bridge geometry, and traffic considerations. A bridge with a sufficiency rating of 80 or less is eligible for Federal bridge rehabilitation funding. A bridge with a sufficiency rating of 50 or less is eligible for Federal bridge replacement funding.

*According to Penn DOT the exact replacement date is still to be determined but will happen between April and October of 2015. The proposed project will replace the existing structure with, as noted, a pre-cast single-cell reinforced concrete box culvert that will be aligned with the road. It will have a clear roadway width of 24 ft., a normal clear span of 12 ft and an under clearance of 5.75ft. This translates to, two, 10 ft travel lanes and two ft. shoulders on each side.*

*Replacement is expected to take 6-8 weeks.*

PENN TOWNSHIP  
228 CLIFFORD ROAD  
SELINGROVE, PA 17870

PRST STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 26  
SELINGROVE, PA 17870

PHONE - 374-4778  
ROADMASTER - 374-4258  
FAX - 374-4931  
EMAIL - penntwp@ptd.net  
WEBSITE - www.penn-township.net  
Spring/Summer 2014

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



**REMINDER - PERMITS ARE REQUIRED IN PENN TOWNSHIP**

*zoning permits, building permits, road cut permits, driveway permits, transient merchant permits, amusement tax permits etc.*

The most often required permit in Penn Township is our zoning permit and we are often asked, "Why do I need a zoning permit?" Well, the general 'line' that covers most everything is...to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare of our residents. To detail that statement a bit further, the fact that Penn Township has developed any ordinances over the past decades, shows the awareness of those in a leadership role, to look ahead to plan and develop, to assure safe, reliable and adequate water supply, prevent over crowding of land and travel congestion, preserve prime farmland and ag activities, provide housing of various types in appropriate locations, encourage smart growth practices that will promote high quality residential neighborhoods, preserve natural and scenic qualities, approve the appearance and function of Route 522, provide for low impact stormwater management in all new development etc. These are just some of the reasons that illustrate how the zoning ordinance can protect you, and, accommodate and guide the overall growth of Penn Township.

**So do you need a zoning permit?**

Zoning permits are required for any new construction or alteration of an existing structure. Typical projects that would need a zoning permit include, but are not limited to: additions, decks, porches, garages, patios, sheds, pools, all new homes (stick-built, modular, and mobile), agriculture buildings, and more.

**What information do you need to complete the zoning permit application?**

Zoning permit applications require various items depending on the specific project you are planning. For all projects you will need the size of the project, setbacks to the property line, and an overview drawing of your project, which should include dimensions and setbacks and any current buildings on your property. New home construction ...please read on.

**What if you are building a new home?**

For new homes a copy of the sewer and/or water permit if your new home will be connected to public water and/or sewer, or a copy of the septic permit if you will be out of public service area. Also, a set of your new home plans, a plot plan, a driveway permit issued by the township if your driveway will connect to a township road, or a copy of your highway occupancy permit - obtained from PennDOT if your driveway will connect to a state road.

For zoning questions call the Penn Township zoning officer at 570-374-6199 or the township office 570-374-4778.

**Do you need a building permit?**

That's one question Penn Twp employees cannot answer for you. The Central Keystone Council of Government (the COG), is the only office who can determine if a building permit is required. It is your responsibility to contact the COG prior to construction to verify permit requirements. You can reach the COG at 877-457-9401.

