

West Nottingham Township Newsletter

October 2011

Historical Marker Dedicated in West Nottingham

On September 17, West Nottingham Township Supervisors, the Historical Commission, and members of the Union United Methodist Church hosted a dedication ceremony for the first State Historical Marker placed in West Nottingham Township.

Located in the corner of the cemetery, it can be easily read by pulling into the church parking lot. The his-

torical marker recognizes the "Parker Kidnapping and Rescue" which occurred in 1851.

Sincere thanks to the Historical Commission, and John Bradley for their work in submitting the marker application. Additional thanks to the Township Supervisors and members of Union United Methodist Church for supporting the project.



Township officials, volunteers, distinguished visitors and guests pose in front of the new marker.

Community Events & Important Dates

Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Saturday, October 8 at the Government Services Center in West Chester. (Details on page 2)

Dumpster Day, Saturday, October 15 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Proof of residency required; fee required for all appliances. (More info on page 2)

Bridge Dedication, Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m. (Additional details on page 2)

Trick or Treat, Monday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for children 12 years old and younger.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the municipal building, 100 Park Road, Nottingham.

Please visit www.wnt-gov.org/schedule for township meeting dates/times, and events scheduled at Nottingham County Park, or find us on Facebook!



Tax Reminder

Property and per capita taxes are due on or before December 15, 2011. Property owners who do not pay their taxes by the due date risk having a lien put against their property.

All residents who are 18 years or older and are NOT full-time students, are required to pay a per capita tax by December 15, 2011.

If you have not received your property tax bill or a per capita tax bill, please contact the Tax Collector, John Vail, immediately at 610-932-4445. It is your responsibility to notify the Township and the Tax Collector if your mailing address has changed.

Berkheimer collects the Local Services Tax on behalf of the township. If you own a business or work in the township and you make over \$12,000 a year, you must pay this annual tax. For more information, please contact Berkheimer at 610-599-3142.

Keystone Collections Group is the Earned Income Tax (EIT) collector. If you live in the township and have a job, you must pay a 1% tax with half of it going to the school district and half to the township. For more information, please contact Keystone at 724-978-0300.

Dumpster Day Scheduled

Fall Dumpster Day will be held Saturday, October 15 from 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM, at the municipal building, 100 Park Road.

Residents who dispose of appliances and air conditioners must pay a small fee for CFC and non-CFC items. CFC items or appliances containing refrigerants will cost \$10. All other appliances will cost \$5. Please remove doors from refrigerators and freezers, but do not drain the refrigerant. Paint and tires will not be accepted.

Checks payable to "West Not-

tingham Township" and cash will be accepted. Exact change is very much appreciated. For more information, please contact the Road Master at 610-932-4072 ext. 301.

Electronics, such as computers, televisions, and stereos, and household hazardous waste will be collected on Saturday, October 8 at the Chester County Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road in West Chester. This will be the last collection event for 2011. This service is free. For more information visit www.chestercountyswa.org.

SECCRA Community Landfill offers year-round recycling for various items such as tires, appliances, unchipped brush and limbs, grass, leaves, automobile batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, cell phones, and electronics. Some items require a small fee so please visit <http://seccra.org/other-recycling/> for details. SECCRA is open Monday through Saturday. For hours of operation or for more information on SECCRA, please visit www.seccra.org or call 610-869-2452.

Ordinance Revision Status

At the September Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission voted to approve the September 2010 Public Review Draft of the proposed zoning ordinance and accompanying errata sheet dated August 23, 2011 with some minor changes. The proposed zoning ordinances, errata sheet and recommended changes can be found on the website by clicking on the "Proposed Zoning" link.

The Planning Commission has requested the Board of Supervisors vote on the following:

1) Nottingham Village Manual of Design Guidelines.

2) West Nottingham Township Historic Atlas. (*These items are in the Public Review Draft after the zoning ordinance.*)

3) Other ancillary items, which are also included in the Public Review Draft after the zoning ordinance, that simply will be kept on file by the Township to include:

a) Riparian buffer maps and tables.

b) More specific TDR maps and tables showing parcels, soils, preliminary TDR allocations etc.

c) TDR procedure sheet.

4) Development of an off-site sign permit and related guidelines, standards, and fees.

The Supervisors will consider these recommendations at their October regular meeting. An official public review period for the proposed ordinances, errata sheet and additional changes will be forthcoming. Check announcements on the website or on our Facebook page regularly to stay up-to-date and involved. You can visit the website to view the proposed ordinances or come by the municipal building to look at the copy on file.

Historical Commission: Preserving Yesterday & Today for Tomorrow

The Historical Commission meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Building, 100 Park Road. Everyone is welcome!! If you find any 'Historical Treasures' while Fall housecleaning, we would be honored to have you share them with us for future generations to enjoy. For more information, please visit www.wnt-gov.org/hc.html.

Historical Commission Plans Bridge Dedication

Have you traveled over the beautiful new bridge on Lee's Bridge Road? The previous bridge, built in 1902, was in dire need of repair and was classified as a single vehicle bridge. PennDOT began working on the project in November 2010 and finished in July 2011. The new bridge, which is wide enough to accommodate two vehicles, is made of stamped, painted concrete

with the plaque and caps from the old bridge.

The Township will hold a dedication ceremony on October 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the bridge. Historical Commission members planning the event have arranged a brief ceremony and parade. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to the bridge sight for this enjoyable event.



Assistance for Individuals Affected by Recent Storm

Chester County has been included for **Individual Assistance** under the **Tropical Storm Lee Presidential Disaster Declaration for Pennsylvania**. Individuals, families, and businesses are eligible for a wide range of federal benefits including eligibility for grants and loans, including Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be the lead

agency for this working with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Department of Emergency Services (DES). The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) we have operating in the Government Services Center in Chester County will be able to assist residents and business impacted by both storms.

If you were impacted by Tropical Storm Lee,

you can register for assistance the following ways:

- **Telephone:** (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or TTY at (800) 462-7585.
- **711 or Video Relay Service (VRS):** (800) 621-3362.
- **Internet:** Visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
- **Smartphone or tablet:** Use web address m.fema.gov
- **FEMA's App for android phones:** Download the app at market.android.com/

details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android.

Residents can also visit the Disaster Recovery Center that is open in the Chester County Government Services, 601 Westtown Road, Room 042, in West Chester, PA to register for assistance or to ask questions. Residents can visit this Center for both **Hurricane Irene AND Tropical Storm Lee** related damages. The Center operates seven days a week 10AM to 7PM.

Building Permit Information

The township receives hundreds of building permit applications throughout the year. Many applicants show up expecting to receive their permits when the drop off their application. Processing a permit application takes time. First, the Codes Enforcement Officer (CEO) will verify that the application being submitted is complete and meets the current zoning ordinances. Then, the CEO forwards the completed application to the Building Codes Official (BCO) for review. By law, the BCO has up to 4 weeks to review the application and issue a permit. Incomplete permit applications will result in a delay of the plan review. Please plan ahead and contact the CEO regarding your project and the permit requirements. A few examples of the types of projects that require permits are

- *A new home on an empty lot: building, zoning, road occupancy (for driveway), and use & occupancy permits.*
- *A shed: zoning permit.*
- *Detached garage (less than 1000 sq.ft.): zoning permit.*
- *Detached garage (1000 sq.ft. or larger): zoning & building permit.*
- *Re-paving or paving a driveway: road occupancy permit.*
- *A deck or porch: zoning & building permit.*
- *In-ground or above ground swimming pool: zoning & building permit.*

Mobile home park residents must have a zoning permit before placing a shed. Failure to obtain a permit before starting your project, will result in a fine. For permit applications and fees schedule, visit www.wnt-gov.org and click on the "Applications, Permits & Fees" link or call 610-932-4072 ext. 5.

Be Informed: Come to a Township Meeting

A lot happens at the various monthly township meetings. The Planning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. to discuss subdivision and land development plans, future land use, zoning, ordinances, etc.

The Supervisors hold a workshop on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. to set the agenda for the regular monthly meeting which is held on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Supervisors typically conduct business at the regular meeting, however there are times when it is necessary for the Supervisors to vote on issues at the workshop. In September of each year, budget meetings are scheduled for October and November to discuss and set a budget for the next fiscal year.

The Historical Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 to discuss historical items of interest and share things they've learned that are historic in nature.

Come out to the meetings and see what's going on. See how your tax dollars are being spent and weigh in on important issue. If you hear something that doesn't sit right with you or makes you upset, contact one of the Supervisors, the Secretary or come to a meeting to get your questions answered and concerns addressed. Rumors often get started because there is a lack of understanding or facts. We want to make sure that you understand what is going on and that you have all the facts! See you at the next meeting!

Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home

While our township has an emergency management coordinator who works closely with county officials and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to prepare for and reduce the risk of natural and manmade disasters, the reality is that emergency preparedness really begins at home — your home.

There are three steps you need to take to be safe: *be informed, be prepared, and be involved.*

The first step, *be informed*, encourages you to learn about the threats facing our township.

Pennsylvania is prone to a wide variety of disasters, including floods, fires, snow, wind, tropical storms, and hazardous material spills. While you can't prevent these events, you can get informed, which will empower you to make better decisions to protect your family.

The next step, *be prepared*, encourages you to create a home emergency kit, which will allow your family to survive on its own for at least three days. As past disasters have shown, emergency responders can get quickly overwhelmed with calls and simply can't reach all victims at the same time. Gather essential supplies for a basic emergency kit to include the following:

Water for drinking and sanitation; one gallon per person per day for three days. Include water for pets, too.

Food; at least a three-day supply of nonperishable items.

Cash; if there is no electricity, ATMs won't work.

Other essentials; a crank or battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, moist towelettes, a manual can opener, prescription medications, infant formula and diapers, pet supplies, and important documents.

Once you've organized these necessities, you might want to include a few fun things, such as toys for children and pets, travel-size family games, and a deck of cards. A smaller emergency kit should be kept in your vehicle in case you are ordered to evacuate during work hours or are stranded in your car.

You should also develop a plan in case your family gets separated when a disaster strikes. Log onto www.ReadyPA.org where you can download free family plan templates and emergency kit checklists. The website also features information on preparing for a disaster when you have pets and loved ones with special needs.

The final step, *be involved*, encourages you to join such organizations as the Pennsylvania Citizen Corps, a cluster of volunteer programs that promote safer communities, and SERV PA, an online registry for medical and nonmedical volunteers.

There is another way to get involved: Be vigilant when you're out and about in your neighborhood and in the township. Community threats come in all shapes and sizes, and you can help make our township safer by reporting out-of-the-ordinary or suspicious behavior to the proper authorities. Here are some helpful guidelines for who to contact:

In an emergency: If you think a life is in danger or a serious crime is about to be committed, call 9-1-1.

For a non-emergency: Do NOT tie up the 911 emergency number. Most local police departments and all State Police barracks and 911 centers have non-emergency numbers. Take the time now to look these up and record them in a handy place.

To give a tip: If you notice suspicious activity that doesn't warrant immediate attention, you can pass this information along to a variety of public safety officials. Phone a tip into the township; provide it to other local first responders, such as police, fire, and ambulance personnel; contact the State Police by calling the toll-free hotline, (888) 292-1919, or e-mailing, sp-intelligence@state.pa.us.

Storms and other emergencies are often unpredictable, but being prepared is one thing all of us can control.

As anyone who has lived through a disaster will tell you, preparedness is priceless, so take matters into your own hands, and be prepared.

Cold Weather Reminders!

You may be enjoying the mild autumn weather now, but before you know it, temperatures will drop and it will be time to break out snow shovels! Here's how you can help our Road Crew during inclement weather:

- Keep all vehicles off the roadways so snow plows can clear the roads completely.
- When road conditions are poor, wait until the plows are able to salt and/or clear the roadways.
- Report debris in the road that could be hazardous to motorists especially in icy conditions.
- Be patient! The Road Crew works very hard to clear the roads, but it takes time.

If you have questions, please call 610-932-4072 ext. 301.



Join the Township's Emergency Management Team. Contact the Secretary at 610-932-4072 ext. 300 or send an email to westnottinghamtp@zoominternet.net.