



West Nottingham Township Newsletter

Spring 2015

Spring Dumpster Day Scheduled

Spring is here and it's time to clean out the garage, sort through the boxes in the closet and get rid of that old mower in the shed! The Township will hold the 2015 Spring Dumpster Day on Saturday, April 18th from 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM, at the municipal building, 100 Park Road. Proof of residency is required.

Acceptable items include furniture, appliances, and air conditioning (AC) units. Doors from refrigerators and freezers should be removed, however do not drain the Freon from appliances or AC units. There will be a \$10 fee for each CFC appliance.

In January 2014, the PA

Department of Environmental Protection mandated that all electronics be recycled by an authorized electronics recycler and that they no longer be accepted by landfills in Pennsyl-

**A fee is required for
ALL electronic
devices...**

vania.

The fees for electronics items to be recycled are as follows: \$10 for computer monitors, PCs, TVs up to 36 inches, stereos, cell phones, small electronic devices and appliances; \$20 for TVs larger

than 36 inches.

Exact change is appreciated, or a check made payable to "West Nottingham Township" will be accepted.

There are a variety of options for unacceptable items: For tires, motor oil & batteries visit seccra.org/specialrecycling.htm; for hazardous household waste (HHW) including oil-based paint check out www.wnt-gov.org and click on the "Township Calendar" link. Upcoming HHW events are also listed on page 5 of this newsletter, or visit chestercountyswa.org for more information.

For information about Dumpster Day, please call 610-932-4072 ext. 8.

Spring Cleanup Day - Putting Litter in its Place

PennDOT has designated the month of April as "Spring Litter Pick-up" month, which coincides with the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful program and Earth Day. In keeping with this annual tradition and important service, the Supervisors have chosen Saturday, April 18 as Spring Clean-up Day!

Residents young and old are encouraged to participate in this event which will begin at 9:00 AM at Nottingham County Park. Participants will register

at pavilion 8, where road assignments will be made and gloves, trash bags and safety vests provided. Instead of



lunch, we are kicking off the event with donuts and drinks.

If you can't join us on April 18th, contact the Township

Secretary and let her know what day you will be able to volunteer. Roadside cleanup will continue through May 2. All the necessary equipment will be provided. Youth participants will be eligible to win a \$100 gift card from Walmart! For more information about Spring Cleanup Day, please call 610-932-4072 ext. 8. Please help us keep West Nottingham beautiful and join us for Clean-up Day on April 18th!

Real Estate & Per Capita Tax Bills Mailed Soon

Residents and property owners should expect to receive real estate and per capita tax bills on or before May 1, 2015. Tax bills paid before June 30 will be at a discounted rate. Real estate and per capita tax bill payments should be made by separate check or money order; do not combine them.

The real estate tax rate for the township remains the same

as last year, .97 mills. The per capita tax is \$10 per person and must be paid by all township residents who are 18 years and older. Full-time students are exempt from the tax. Please note that mortgage companies do not pay per capita taxes.

The tax collector, Hannah Rush, will hold 2 collection events: Tuesday, June 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sat-

urday, August 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., both at the municipal building, 100 Park Road. Payments may also be sent to the attention of the Township Tax Collector, P.O. Box 67, Nottingham, PA, 19362. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for a receipt.

If you do not receive your tax bills by May 15, please contact Hannah Rush at 610-932-4072 ext. 404.

Residents are responsible for notifying the township when a mailing address has changed or if a post office box is in use. Tax bills are sent to the address on file with Chester County. Failure to notify the township or Chester County of an address change could keep your tax bill from getting to you in a timely manner. If you notice the mailing address on your tax bill is incorrect, you should notify the township and Chester County Tax Assessment as soon as possible.

What you need to know about Earned Income and Local Service Taxes

The Earned Income Tax (EIT) is a 1% income tax collected by Keystone Collections Group. One-half of this tax goes to the school district and the other to the Township. **ALL** residents are required to pay the EIT either through their employer or by making quarterly estimated payments. Annual EIT tax returns must be filed with Keystone Collections Group by April 15, 2015.

If you are new to the township, or if you did not get an EIT tax return form, visit the Keystone Collections website listed below. Failure to pay the EIT will result in interest and penalty charges. For EIT forms and contact information, visit www.keystonecollects.com.

The Local Services Tax (LST) was enacted January 1, 2008. Anyone who works in the township and earns more than \$12,000 per year must pay a \$52

yearly flat tax. This includes individuals who are self-employed or those who conduct business out of their home. Berkheimer Associates is the collector of the LST. If you have questions, please contact the Township Secretary at 610-932-4072 ext. 8 or Berkheimer at www.hab-inc.com.

Historical Commission: Preserving Yesterday and Today for Tomorrow

The Historical Commission meets the 3rd Thursday of each month 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.

We have a Facebook page! Visit www.facebook.com/pages/West-Nottingham-Township-Chester-County-PA/131554216936299. We use our page to communicate important information and area events with residents and guests. You don't have to have a Facebook account to view our page. If you have an account, like our page to receive posts on your feed. For more information, contact the Township Secretary at 610-932-4072 ext. 8.



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There is a \$25 charge for any check returned for insufficient funds.

Caught in the Act

Protect Our Community by Reporting Illegal Dumping and Littering

Make no mistake: Littering and illegal dumping are against the law. Litter is primarily small items that have been scattered, including paper, food and beverage containers, convenience products, newspapers, and cardboard. Littering can be intentional or accidental. Illegal dumping, on the other hand, is always intentional and may be done for convenience, ignorance, habit, profit, or to hide other illegal activities. Illegal dumping often involves large items or large quantities of small items, such as appliances, tires, bags of household trash, furniture, and construction and demolition debris.

Despite their differences, litter

and illegally dumped items are costly and time-consuming to clean up. Both pose significant threats to the environment and to



the health and safety of humans, animals, and the communities they live in. All of us play a role in curbing these problems. When you see someone littering or

dumping items where they shouldn't, report the incident to the proper authorities.

Improper disposal of trash is against the law, and violators can be prosecuted. If you observe someone littering or dumping, DO NOT APPROACH the suspect. Instead, get details and descriptions of the incident and turn them over to an enforcement agency as soon as possible. Helpful information includes:

- The license plate number and description of the vehicle involved (*make, model, year, and condition*).
- Number of people involved, along with descriptions.

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Laws Governing Electronics Disposal & Recycling

Under the State Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010, waste haulers will not be able to accept covered devices, such as computers, laptops, computer monitors, televisions and tablets unless the township has a curbside electronics collection program that ultimately sends the devices to an electronics recycler. Because trash removal service is individually contracted, you should check with your refuse hauler to see if their recycling program accepts these items and sends them to an electronics recycler.

The Chester County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has a resource directory of businesses that will take recyclable items, www.chestercountyswa.org/businessdirectoryii.aspx. The SWA will not be accepting "e-waste" at the Household Hazardous Waste collection events in 2015. The closest recycling center that accepts e-waste would be SECCRA, <http://seccra.org/location/>. Fees for certain items can be found on their website. They also sponsor free electronics recycling dates throughout the year and post those dates on their website.

Unfortunately, there are no recycling centers in our immediate area. You can find a list on the website of merchants and non-profits that accept various items. If you have something that still works, please consider donating the item(s) to an organization such as the Neighborhood Services Center in Oxford, Habitat for Humanity Restore in Kennett

"Electronics Recycling" continued on page 6

Single-Stream Recycling

The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) and many refuse haulers now accept co-mingling of recyclable materials. This means that you don't have to separate glass from plastic or paper from cardboard. Known as "single-stream recycling", this process allows materials to be collected and mixed together, then sent to a facility for processing.

The Township offers a 24-hour recycling center to accept glass, plastic, paper, junk mail, magazines, and cardboard. Please check with your trash hauler for curbside recycling guidelines.

Don't Be a Victim of Theft

Petty theft is on the rise in our area. Criminals are breaking into cars, sheds, and garages to steal items that can be sold quickly or scrapped for cash. Residents are encouraged to lock all vehicles, even when parked in front of your home or business. Always remove valuables from your vehicle; lock them in your trunk if removing them is not an option. Never leave valuables on your dashboard or in the seat. It only takes a few seconds for a

well practiced criminal to break your car window and grab your new cell phone, computer, wallet or even spare change. At home, make sure to lock your shed and keep your garage doors closed. Residents are advised not to leave packages on door steps. If you can't be home to accept delivery, make arrangements for the package to be delivered to a neighbor. We have also had reports of unknown persons calling

residents "phishing" for personal information to include bank account information, social security number, and/or credit card numbers. NEVER give your personal information to anyone! If you get a phone call requesting this type of information,

hang-up and call the Police to report the scam. If you think you've been a victim of crime, please contact the Police immediately and file a police report. Non-emergency phone calls to the Township Police should be made to 610-467-0312.

Don't Build It Without a Permit!

Building permits are required for most construction projects. A few examples of the types of projects that require permits include, but are not limited to a new home, shed, detached garage, re-paving/paving or widening a driveway, deck, porch, patio, and in-ground or above ground swimming pool (including all pools that can hold up to 2 feet of water). If you live in a mobile home park, you must have a zoning permit from the township 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. The Codes/Zoning Officer holds office hours on Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. and Friday from 7-9 a.m. New zoning ordinances were adopted in August 2012. Setbacks may have changed so it is a good idea to check with the Codes/Zoning Officer to see if you need to revise your plans to comply with the new zoning.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

HHW Collection Event, April 11 - NO ELECTRONICS

9 AM - 3 PM - 1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville

Federal/State Tax Filing Deadline, April 15

Spring Clean-up Day, April 18

9 AM - Noon - Pavilion 8, Nottingham County Park

Dumpster Day, April 18

7 AM - 3 PM - 100 Park Road, proof of residency required

HHW Collection Event, April 25 - NO ELECTRONICS

9 AM - 3 PM - Octorara HS, 226 Highland Road, Atglen

HHW Collection Event, May 16 - NO ELECTRONICS

9 AM - 3 PM - Owen J. Roberts MS, 981 Ridge Rd, Pottstown

Primary Election, May 19

7 AM - 8 PM at 100 Park Road

HHW Collection Event, June 26 - NO ELECTRONICS

9 AM - 3 PM - 1425 E. Lincoln Hwy, Coatesville

Tax Collector's Office Hours, June 30

Accepting Real Estate and Per Capita tax payments from 5 PM - 8 PM at 100 Park Road

Tax Collector's Office Hours, August 25

Accepting Real Estate and Per Capita tax payments from 5 PM - 8 PM at 100 Park Road

For more information about HHW events, please visit the following website: www.chestercountyswa.org

Spring Road Maintenance

It's time to put away the snow removal tools and break out the mowers! The road crew will be mowing along township roads and performing various road repairs. Please drive slowly and cautiously through work zones and around mowing equipment, and observe posted speed limit signs. To report a downed tree or debris in the roadway, please call 610-932-4072 ext. 301 during business hours or dial 9-1-1 on weekends and after business hours.



Guidelines for Displaying “Old Glory”

The U.S. Flag Code provides uniform guidelines for the display of and respect to be shown to the American flag. It provides general guidelines on when and how to display the flag, including at half-staff, and how to show proper respect for the flag through appropriate use and conduct. Here are a few sections of the code and their key points:

Time and occasions for display:

- The flag should be displayed from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, it may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated at night.
- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be displayed in inclement weather unless it is an all-weather flag.
- The flag should be displayed on all days and especially on national holidays and other observances.
- The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution, in or near every polling place on election days, and in or near every schoolhouse on school days.

Position and manner of display:

- No other flag or pennant should be placed above, or if on the same level, to the right of the U.S. flag.
- When displayed with another flag against a wall on crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on the right, i.e., the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the other flag's staff.
- The U.S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point of a group of flags that are displayed from staffs.

- When flags of states, cities, or localities are flown on the same staff with the U.S. flag, the American flag should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the U.S. flag should be hoisted first and lowered last. No other flag or pennant may be placed above the U.S. flag or to its right.
- When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag should hold the position of prominence,



in front of the audience, and on the speaker's or clergy's right as he faces the audience.

Flying the flag at half-staff:

- When the flag is flown at half-staff, it should first be hoisted to the peak and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered at the end of the day.
- On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon and then raised to the peak.
- The U.S. president may order the flag to be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the U.S. government or the governor of a state, territory, or posses-

sion as a mark of respect to their memory.

- State governors may order the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff upon the death of a current or former state government official or a member of the Armed Forces from the state.

Respecting the flag

- Never fly the flag upside down, except as a signal of extreme danger to life or property;
- Never allow the flag to touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, or water;
- Never carry the flag flat or horizontally, but always aloft and flying;
 - Never use the flag as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. The flag should never be swagged nor drawn back or up in folds, but always allowed to hang freely. Blue, white, and red bunting, with the blue at the top, should be used for decoration instead.

When attending a parade or event where the flag passes in procession or where the national anthem is played, members of the Armed Forces and veterans may render the military salute. All others should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Men wearing hats and other head coverings should remove them and hold them with the right hand at the left shoulder, so that the hand is over the heart.

Finally, the code states that when a flag reaches the condition that it is “no longer a fitting emblem for display,” it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. Many Girl and Boy Scout troops, American Legions, and other organizations hold retirement ceremonies for such flags.

Avoid Community and Safety Issues When Landscaping

As the weather begins to warm, trees flower and sprout leaves, lawns turn green, and new problems begin to grow. Planting trees, shrubs or bamboo along roadways creates a problems for the community. As this vegetation grows, trees pose a danger to power and telephone lines, and can fall into the roadway during severe weather. Bamboo and fast growing bushes and shrubs planted close to the road can

impair site distance and prevent the road crew from clearing the roads during severe weather.

By planting vegetation away from the roads and power lines, you are contributing to your safety and the safety of the other residents in the township.

The Code of Ordinances states that any grass, weeds or vegetation of any kind cannot exceed a height of eighteen (18") inches. Residents who don't comply with the ordinance



will be subject to an enforcement notice and possible fine. We ask residents to be mindful of noxious weeds and to eliminate them as soon as you can to prevent spreading. For more information or to review the vegetation ordinance, visit www.wntgov.org, click on "Code of Ordinances" and see Chapter 10 Health and Safety, Section 103 Required Height and Cuttings.



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- Date and time of incident.
- Direction of travel, if you witnessed a littering incident, and type of litter thrown from the vehicle.
- Location and directions to the site of an illegal dump and the name of the property owner, if known.
- Your name and telephone number.

If a vehicle is involved, the owner is responsible for any trash that has been dropped, thrown, or deposited regardless of who committed the offense. The vehicle license number may be all that you need to report after witnessing a littering incident. However, the more information you provide, the stronger the case will be.

When reporting littering or illegal dumping, always start at the local level. Your township officials, for example, are familiar with properties and residents and may be able to respond quickly or point you to the correct authority. You may also contact the following:

- **The Pennsylvania State Police**, who have jurisdiction if the violation occurs on a state road or on public or private land.
- **The Pa. Department of Environmental Protection**, which responds to complaints of illegal dumping on public or private property.
- **The Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry**, which responds to complaints of littering or dumping in state forests and parks.
- **The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**, which oversees the commonwealth's surface waters, particularly trout streams.
- **The Pennsylvania Game Commission**, which should be contacted for littering or dumping incidents on state game lands or on private property that is open to hunting.

Note: Information courtesy of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

"Electronics Recycling" continued from page 3

Square, or Goodwill Industries Store in Avondale. Charities such as Disabled American Veterans or the Salvation Army also accept items but may have limited service areas. Some thrift stores will pick up your items at no charge. Please contact them for details.

Covered devices will be accepted at Dumpster Day on April 18 for a small fee per item. For information on Dumpster Day, see page 1 of this newsletter.