

Be prepared! A message from Emergency Management

By Clyde Wilhelm, Emergency Management Coordinator

As the winter season approaches again, it presents a good opportunity to reflect on last winter's storm to emphasize the need to be prepared for an emergency. Nottingham Township had homes without electricity for nearly two weeks, and many people were "snowed-in" for the first few days of the event. We would like to reiterate that we all have a personal responsibility to be prepared for an event such as that and have the necessary emergency supplies available.

Emergency Supply Kit

Whether you are preparing for a winter storm or other natural disaster, all items should be kept in a sturdy container that can be easily located.

The following basic items should be in your kit:

- Water - one gallon per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation
- Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and a manual can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Dust mask to filter contaminated air, plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Whistle to signal for help
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter, solar charger, or vehicle charger

After preparing yourself and family for possible emergencies, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. Find out if any of your neighbors will need extra help during an emergency. The elderly, disabled, and people with small children may need you to lend a helping hand. If you need more information on preparing for or reacting to any emergency, go to www.ready.gov.

October is fire prevention month!

Please check to ensure that all smoke detectors in your home are in working order as well as changing batteries if required. Working smoke detectors reduce the chance of dying in a fire by more than half.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VENETIA, PA 15367
PERMIT #28

NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP
909 Sugar Run Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330

FEMA updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps

This year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun updating their Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). These maps show where 100-year and 500-year flood boundaries fall and where current flood risks are in the community. These maps have not been updated on this large of a scale since 1994. Flood boundaries could have changed over this time period for various reasons.

Some parcels in Nottingham Township are affected by periodic flooding. A letter will soon be going out to those identified parcels throughout the Township that have been mapped into a higher risk zone, known as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and shown as [show A, AE, V, VE] on the FIRM. If you have a mortgage from a federally-regulated lender and the building(s) on your parcel are within the SFHA, then by federal law, your lender must require you to carry flood insurance when these maps become effective.

If you do not have a mortgage, FEMA still recommends that you purchase flood insurance, since the chance of flood is three (3) times greater than a fire over the life of a 30-year loan.

If you feel there is an error in the FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) you can file a protest or appeal. These recently updated maps are still known as preliminary maps, and there is a Public Comment Period. During this Public Comment Period citizens have the opportunity to submit technical and/or scientific data to file a protest regarding their individual property, or an appeal regarding the accuracy of the mapping process in general. More information will be released as it filters in from FEMA, including Comment Period dates and more information on protests and appeals. Once the protest/appeals period is over and changes are made, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). After this letter is released, no changes will be permitted through the development of these maps

Preliminary maps can be viewed at the Township Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program's website at www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531.

**Residents are urged to contact their mortgage lender for more information. If you are uncertain or question the status of your property pertaining to flood prone areas, contact your mortgage lender.*

General Election Day– Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The last day to register to vote before the November election will be October 4, 2010.

To download a voter registration form, follow the link on the website at www.nottinghamtp.com.



NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP'S

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Observance

Sunday, October 31, 2010

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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Letter from the Chairman

By Raymon K. Barley, Board of Supervisors

The Supervisors and Staff are pleased to provide you with the 2010 Township Fall Newsletter. Covering these pages are many articles explaining issues facing Township governments and ultimately you the resident. Please take a moment to read the items provided. Many significant events have been occurring in the Township the last several months. If questions remain, please follow up by contacting the appropriate agency or the Township Office.

Were you aware?

That a 211 acre strip mine request in Nottingham Township was recently approved? That an effort to eliminate all Township governments and consolidate them into one (1) large County government is being considered by your State Legislators? That all earned income taxes will be collected by a County agency beginning in January 2012? That Nottingham Township will soon have a single stream recycling drop-off facility adjacent to the Township building? That a Marcellus gas well will be started in the Township in the next few months?

My message to residents is to encourage you to be involved. Part of being a citizen means to take on the burden of informing yourself of what's going on. You can't participate effectively in government at any level unless you have some understanding of the issues of the day. Each of us is responsible for educating ourselves about the issues that matter to us.

Nottingham Township has always worked hard at getting information about the Township out to residents and visitors. We post our building with upcoming actions and information, legal advertisements and notices placed in the *Observer-Reporter* newspaper, and even reports from the Supervisor's meetings are placed in the *Union-Finley Messenger*. The Township's website is always listing and advertising the matters at hand, as well as much more information. If you have access to the internet we encourage you to visit the Township's website at www.nottinghamtwp.com.

The Township operates with several Boards that meet each month addressing the issues of the day. Unfortunately, fewer than six residents take the time to attend each of these meetings. We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas as we review requests and make decisions that determine the future of your Township and each one of you!

We also have vacancies from time to time on some of our Boards. It is always a difficult task to find someone to fill these positions. The Township has a Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, and a Recreation Board. If you have an interest in serving on one of these or have an interest in what they do, contact the Township Office or one (1) of your Township Supervisors.

In closing, many of you are probably aware of the recent rash of home break-ins that have been occurring in Nottingham and the surrounding area. Please take note of any suspicious activity or vehicles in your neighbor's driveway or neighborhood. As a victim of a break in myself last month, I encourage you not to leave any valuables out in the open. I do not believe the individuals committing these crimes spend more than ten to fifteen minutes inside any given house. They grab those items of value being clearly visible, exiting as quickly as possible. The culprits will eventually be apprehended, but the return of items taken is very doubtful.

Update on Recycling Compactor

Everything in government seems to move at a snail's pace! There are too many guidelines to follow. The installation of the recycling compactor has certainly held true to form.

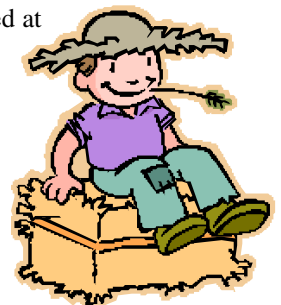
We are sorry the recycling center is not yet available to our residents. However, look for it to be up and running sometime around early November. Feel free to contact the Township Office at 724-348-5622 or visit the website at www.nottinghamtwp.com for any updates.

Nottingham to hold Bonfire Event October 2, 2010

By David Rising, Recreation Board Chairman

Nottingham Township will host a BONFIRE EVENT at Sherwood Park located at the Municipal Complex, 909 Sugar Run Road on Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Bring your friends and family to roast marshmallows by an open fire. Entertainment will be provided by the Saddle Tramps! The entertainment and refreshments will be provided at no cost to residents. So come enjoy some hot dogs (kraut optional), chips, marshmallows, hot chocolate, cider and orange drink. Be sure to come early. Bring your folding chairs and blankets and have some old fashioned fun. **Hope y'all come!.....**



Township Supervisors enact Oil and Gas Ordinance

By Peter V. Marcoline, Jr., Supervisor

The Nottingham Township Board of Supervisors enacted the Oil and Gas Ordinance, Ordinance 91, on September 7, 2010 after holding two (2) public hearings on the Ordinance. As most residents are aware, several natural gas drilling companies have obtained leases with many residents to drill gas wells within the Township. These wells will tap into the Marcellus Shell Natural Gas Reservoir. While most oil and gas operations are regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protections (DEP), a municipality can regulate drilling location, the level of noise, and the bonding of roads for the repair of any damages caused by drilling operations. The Pennsylvania DEP preempts local government from regulating many aspects of the operation. By June of this year, the DEP has issued 1,985 new Marcellus drilling permits and 763 wells in the state are either completed or under construction.

Ordinance 91 permits oil and gas drilling surface activities to be drilled on property that is a minimum of ten (10) acres or larger on the surface. The Ordinance prohibits oil and gas drilling surface activities in the R-2 and R-3 Zoning Districts, but authorizes oil and gas drilling subsurface activities, such as horizontal drilling, in all Zoning Districts. While there are no present plans to construct natural gas compressor stations and natural gas processing facilities in Nottingham Township, Ordinance 91 authorizes natural gas compressor stations and natural gas processing facilities as conditional uses in the A-1 Zoning District. Ordinance 91 requires the minimum site for a natural gas processing facility fifty (50) acres, and requires that natural gas compressor stations be constructed a minimum of 500 feet from any protected structure.

Ordinance 91 also requires that an oil and gas drilling operator apply for a Zoning Permit prior to the initial development activity within the Township. This application requires the operator to provide specific details of the operation to the Township. One of those details would be to provide to the Township's First Responders, a copy of its Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan or PPC Plan. The First Responders must have an onsite orientation and be provided adequate awareness information by the operator.

At least thirty (30) days prior to initial development activities in the Township, the Operator shall attend a public meeting to present general information about their plans in the Township and allow for questions and answers from all involved residents.

Ordinance 91 has many other provisions, specifically designed to provide the Township with adequate information concerning oil and gas exploration, development and production. It also ensures that certain security and safety measures related to oil and gas drilling are in place in the Zoning Districts where the oil and gas development is authorized.

The Oil and Gas Ordinance can be viewed on the Township Website at www.nottinghamtp.com. All Township Ordinances may be viewed at the Township Office during business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Townships rally to protect the rights of their Constituents

David M. Sanko, Executive Director, PA State Association of Township Supervisors

Today, as a township or borough resident, you can go to a municipal meeting, speak out about what's right and wrong, and have a real and lasting impact on what happens in your community. Tomorrow, however, that might not be the case. And the sad thing is many Pennsylvanians aren't aware that something they value and possibly take for granted could be snatched away. And which is their right to be heard, loud and clear, by their local elected leaders.

State lawmakers are preparing to hold hearings on two serious threats to our democratic way of life, House Bill 2431 and Senate Bill 1357, which would radically reshape our commonwealth by snuffing out townships and boroughs. What is being proposed is to organize local government in Pennsylvania on a county basis and give the counties jurisdiction over local personnel, police, land use zoning, sanitation, and other responsibilities currently managed by the individual municipalities. Cities, townships, and boroughs, to the extent that they continued to exist, would have their duties dictated from the county seat.

In protest, supervisors in hundreds of townships have rallied and passed resolutions that oppose the bills. Their argument hinges on the debatable premise that the commonwealth should follow the lead of a handful of other states, bulldoze its patchwork of "inefficient" and "redundant" municipalities, and create a landscape of bigger, supposedly more efficient governments. (Nottingham Township passed Resolution No. 3-2010 opposing forced local government mergers and consolidations on July 19, 2010.)

But if you're searching for an example of a better-government model, look no farther than the nearest township. There you'll find hardworking, fiscally responsible men and women who work together, do more with less, and are frugal with tax dollars. They're also deeply committed to preserving Pennsylvania's long-standing tradition of government, "Of the people, by the people, and for the people," in an age where big boxes (think Home Depot) rule.

But are big boxes the solution? Maybe for grocery stores and discount retailers, but not for government, where hands-on, within-reach leadership — the vision of William Penn and our nation's founding fathers — still makes as much sense today as it did hundreds of years ago. Townships, instead, are determined to protect something they know their residents hold sacred, and that's their fundamental right to govern themselves locally. Why would anyone want it any other way?

Call or e-mail your representatives and senators and voice your opposition to HB 2431 and Senate Bill 1357.

Lawmakers want—and need—to hear from their voters!

Senator Barry Stout, District 46
P.O. Box 203046
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3046
724-255-5400 or 717-787-1463
E-mail: stout@pasenate.com

Representative David Levdansky, District 39
P.O. Box 202039
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2039
724-348-2030 or 717-783-1020
E-mail: dlevdans@pahouse.net

Sanko oversees an organization that is the primary advocate for the commonwealth's 1,455 townships of the second class, home to 5.4 million Pennsylvanians.