

Nottingham Township's annual Bonfire set for September 24, 2016



Nottingham Township's Recreation Board will once again be hosting a BONFIRE at Sherwood Park located at the Municipal Complex, 909 Sugar Run Road, on September 24, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by Three Sides! Refreshments and entertainment will be provided at no cost. A 50/50 raffle will benefit the Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. So come enjoy some music, food, and friendship.

Remember — bring your folding chairs and blankets!



**Halloween Trail
Saturday,
October 22nd
2- 4 p.m.**

All children are welcome to the Annual Halloween Trail, sponsored by the Recreation Board. Take a stroll through Sherwood Park's Halloween scenes, and enjoy free candy, games, and hayrides.

- No Admission fee.
- Please wear your costume.



Nottingham Township's
TRICK-OR-TREAT

Monday, October 31, 2016
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**ATTENTION!
ATTENTION!**



Now that our children are back to school, please be mindful of all School Bus stops throughout the Township and its neighborhoods. Follow all speed limit signs and do your part in keeping our children safe!



GENERAL ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

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

Last day to register for the election is Tuesday, October 11, 2016. Voter registration forms can be obtained at the Township Office. Absentee Ballots can be downloaded from the township website at www.nottinghamtwp.com. Go to the "Forms and Fees" tab and click on "Absentee Ballot".

Don't Forget to Vote!



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A Message from the Chairman

By Peter V. Marcoline, Jr. Chairman, Board of Supervisors

UPDATE ON RECYCLING

I am pleased to announce that the Township has reached an agreement with Washington County to provide \$3,000 per year to help reduce operating costs to the Township for the continued operation of our recycling facility. The source of the \$3,000 will be grants applied for by Washington County from the Pennsylvania Department Environmental Protection, as well as other sources. Prior to reaching this agreement, the only individuals who were permitted to use the recycling facility were the residents of Nottingham Township. However, since Washington County has now agreed to provide monies from grants to help reduce Township costs, the recycling facility will again be available for use by all residents of Washington County.

The compactor is run by Township employees during normal business hours but not on weekends. This resulted in the bin quickly becoming full on the weekends with recyclables being left outside the bin and scattered by wind on Township property. Ed Nemec, Chairman of the Township Recreation Board, and resident Chip Zelch, organized a group of volunteers, which include members of the Recreation Board as well as other Township residents, to run the compactor during weekends. I want to take this opportunity to thank Ed, Chip and everyone who has volunteered their time to run the compactor during weekends.

I also want to remind all residents that the recycling facility will close between January 1st and March 15th due to the cold weather. The cold winter weather adversely affects the mechanical operation of the compactor.

PEDDLING, SOLICITING OR TRANSIENT MERCHANTS ORDINANCE

It was reported in our Spring Newsletter that the Township had adopted Ordinance #107 requiring Peddlers, Canvassers and Transient Merchants to obtain a permit from the Township to solicit residents to purchase their product or services. The Township Ordinance is similar to the Solicitation Ordinances that have been adopted by both North Strabane and Peters Townships, with one of the differences being that their Ordinance is enforced by their police force. Nottingham Township's Ordinance is enforced by Township Zoning Officer, Lee Schafer.

The intent of the Ordinance is to protect our residents by having a record of the identity and background of those authorized to solicit within the Township. Potential solicitors are required to submit an application with their name, business address and contact telephone number, as well as a photograph of the applicant. Each applicant is required to submit a criminal background check from the Pennsylvania State Police to insure that no one with a criminal record solicits in our Township. On approval of the application, the solicitor will be provided a permit which must be exhibited at all times when soliciting, which identifies them as an authorized solicitor within the Township.

The Ordinance limits the hours that residents may be solicited, which is from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. All soliciting is prohibited on Sundays and all recognized holidays.

To date, private criminal complaints have been filed against six (6) solicitors for failing to obtain a permit from the Township prior to soliciting. Two of the six (6) businesses were ordered by the local District Justice to obtain permits. Private criminal complaints have also been filed against two (2) other businesses that solicited our residents without obtaining permits. All hearings will be held before District Justice Ellis for those entities in the near future.

Residents are reminded that if a solicitor of any business comes to your home, leaves a door hanger on your door, or solicits your business in any manner, they must exhibit on their person the Township permit. The Board of Supervisors strongly recommends that Township residents do not do business with any solicitor that does not exhibit a Township permit.

UPDATE ON THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

Township Officials have met with the Township Planning Consultant, John Trant, and reviewed his proposed Ordinance which would totally replace the present Zoning Ordinance 50. The Planning Consultant met on numerous occasions with the Planning Commission, which submitted their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. It is expected that a final version of the Zoning Ordinance will be discussed at a public hearing later this year. The public hearing will be advertised and any resident who wishes to attend and make comment is welcome.



JUST A REMINDER

RESTRICTIONS ON PARKING ON TOWNSHIP STREETS AND ROADS AND SNOW-BLOWING OR DUMPING OF SNOW ON TOWNSHIP STREET

Township residents are reminded that Ordinance 5 prohibits parking on Township streets during the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. It also restricts parking during snow emergencies when Township crews are plowing the streets and roads. Vehicles parked on Township streets, during these snow events interfere with the ability of our crews to clear the snow. It can also result in damage to vehicles by Township trucks because of reduced visibility during a “white out” or ice which creates unsafe and dangerous conditions.

The cooperation of all residents is requested to assist the Township by complying with the Ordinance in keeping our streets and roads clear. Township residents are also reminded that the home owner is responsible to ensure that their guests comply with the Ordinance.

Keep in mind that it is also unlawful to shovel or blow snow onto any street or roadway in the Township!

History of the Township

By Sandy Mansmann, Historian

This is part of a continuing series of articles that give some historic background on where you live – Nottingham Township. It is meant to give our newer residents an appreciation of what and who went before them, and to trigger some memories of those who have been here for a while.

The following is a reprint of a program put together for Ginger Hill School’s “Grand Finale” held May 8, 1987. Anne Winkleblech and I worked hard to put this event together and gathered some histories and photos from older attendees.

GINGER HILL SCHOOL (1923-1987)

Ginger Hill School, dedicated in 1923 and first occupied in the Fall of 1924, descended from seven one-room schoolhouses which previously served children from Nottingham Township.

About 1790 a man named “Forgee” Johnson came from the East and became a school teacher in Nottingham Township. He “taught round” for several years until 1798, when a schoolhouse was built on Mingo Creek on the farm of Andrew Devore. The schools taught by Johnson were “subscription schools,” a plan which was universal in this section of the country prior to the enactment of the public school law in 1834.



Election of school directors was held at the Mingo schoolhouse on March 20, 1835, and soon after the school directors laid out the township into school districts, selected sites, and erected schoolhouses. The schools built after the Devore School were: Munntown, Bryant, Sumney, Henry, Thomas, Venetia, and finally Ginger Hill.

In the spring of 1922, the Star Mine Company built a community of double-houses atop the village of Ginger Hill. Due to the sudden and great influx of school age children in these “patch houses,” the School Board decided the construction of a new school building was necessary.

And so, Ginger Hill School came to be.

[an early photo of staff and students at Ginger Hill School, Nottingham Township]

An addition to the original structure was added in 1964. Finally, 1986 saw the beginning of the conversion of Ginger Hill into a bus garage for the Ringgold School district. In June of 1987 students occupied the building for the last time.

Correction: some of the schools mentioned in this article were not one-room schoolhouses. Further additions and/or corrections will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Sandy Mansmann at 724-413-9921 or s_mann41@hotmail.com.

Invasive Plants in Nottingham Township

By Jim Patterson, Township resident, farmer and member of the Township Planning Commission

This article addresses some of the invasive trees and shrubs that occur in the Township. Invasive herbs and forbs, and vines, also occur in the Township.

One of Dad's observations about being a good steward of the land was, "If you don't mow for five years, you won't mow," meaning brush and saplings will have made mowing difficult, if not impossible. His observation is especially true with the invasive plants that are spreading in the Township and throughout the area, because they accelerate the natural process of grasslands becoming forest.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, DCNR, defines invasive plants as those species that are not native to the state, grow aggressively, and spread and displace native vegetation. Invasive plants are generally undesirable because they are difficult and costly to control and can dominate whole habitats, making them environmentally destructive in certain situations.

This DCNR article lists 90 invasive plants, with another 25 on the watch list: http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20026634.pdf To learn more about invasive plants in Pennsylvania and how they can be controlled, visit: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm.

The only tree to mention is Tree-of-heaven or Ailanthus, a native of China and Taiwan. Smooth, light gray bark and a foul-smelling odor make it easy to identify; the leaves are similar to those of the walnut. The species is short lived, though its remarkable suckering ability makes it possible for this tree to clone itself indefinitely and live considerably longer (since they are linked to the mother tree and thus partly fed by it, the suckers are less vulnerable than the seedlings and can grow faster). Cutting down the mother tree merely accelerates the suckering; chemical control by applying Garlon to cuts in the bark is much more reliable. The wood is useless.



The most common invasive shrubs that occur in the Township are Tatarian or Bush Honeysuckle (shown left), Russian Olive, Autumn Olive, and Multiflora Rose. They tend to leaf out in the spring before native plants and to appear initially on a property under utility lines and along fences, since bird droppings can contain their seeds. Removal by uprooting is easiest in early spring when the soil is soft and moist.

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

NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP
909 Sugar Run Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330