

East Bradford Township
Special Edition Newsletter—Spring 2008
FOR YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

**Stormwater Is Everybody's Business
Best Lawn Care Practices Save Time, Money and
Prevent Stormwater Pollution.**

MOW HIGH - Set your mower at the highest setting to create deeper root systems that are more drought tolerant and to choke out weeds. Leave grass clippings on lawn to fertilize naturally.

WATER DEEPLY—and only when necessary. Water at cool times of the day to prevent fungus growth and excess water evaporation.

USE FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES WISELY—Test your soil first and apply only the nutrients that your lawn needs. Excess fertilizers cause nitrogen pollution of streams. Use pesticides only when you have a problem. Over use of chemicals will harm beneficial soil organisms.

REDUCE MOWABLE LAWN SIZE—Create more garden areas using native plants. These areas increase stormwater infiltration and create wildlife habitat.

Soil Test Kits are available from the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in Chester County. For more information on the cost of the test and where to pick up the kit please call 610-696-3500 or visit www.aasi.psu.edu

Did You Know ???

It is illegal to:

Blow, sweep or place grass clippings or leaves into the street or storm water system.

This can clog storm water drains and piping causing flooding.



East Bradford Township Emergency Management

What is Emergency Management?

Emergency management involves the planning for, and dealing with all types of emergencies that may occur in the township. These may include natural disasters such as fires, floods, severe snowstorms, hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes as well as man-made or technological events such as hazardous materials releases, long term power outages and acts of terrorism. For this reason, all municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by law are required to have in place an Emergency Operations Plan and each municipality is required to have a municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

The Emergency Management Agencies of East Bradford Township and West Chester Borough have entered into a mutual aide agreement to provide aid to one another in times of crisis. When an emergency involves more than one local municipality, the Chester County Emergency Management officials become involved. When more then one County is involved, the Pennsylvania State Emergency Management Agency becomes involved. When more than one state is involved or is requested by the Governor of Pennsylvania for assistance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency becomes involved.

It is the job of the township's Emergency Management Coordinator, working cooperatively with the various local emergency service providers, to minimize the potential loss of life and property damage through proper planning and response to emergencies. The Emergency Management Coordinator is appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania upon recommendation by the Township Board of Supervisors and must maintain professional certification due to the on-going mandated training by both Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Continued on page 2

East Bradford Township Emergency Management—continued from page 1

The township EOP establishes policies, procedures and organizational structures for response to major emergencies and provides for the coordination between the township and Chester County government and our local police, fire, emergency medical, and hazardous materials response service providers.

Through effective use of local, county, state, and Federal resources, the plan must address the four phases of emergency management:

MITIGATION - Actions taken to eliminate a hazard, or to reduce the probability and the effect, should the disaster occur.

PREPAREDNESS - Actions taken to facilitate disaster response and recovery.

RESPONSE - Actions taken to save lives and property during an emergency.

RECOVERY - Actions taken to return the community to normal or near normal conditions.

For more information contact Eric D. Ruggeri, Emergency Management Coordinator, via E-mail: emc@eastbradford.org or leave a message at the township building— 610-436-5108.

Township Environmental Ordinances

In 2006 the Township adopted new ordinances regulating grading operations, certain tree removal activities and protection of lands near streams (riparian buffer areas) to meet Federal and State requirements to improve the water quality in our streams. If you are planning any earthmoving operations, removal of trees or any activities within riparian buffer areas, be sure to contact the Township to find out if the activity is allowed, and acquire any necessary Township permits. The ordinances can be obtained at the Township building or on the internet at www.eastbradford.org under Code of the Township.

The Township will be undergoing an investigation of several reported potential violations in the Township in the near future. If you think you may be conducting an activity that is in violation of the Code or without the appropriate permits, please contact the Township immediately for instructions on permit acquisitions to avoid any remedies that may involve fines or other penalties administered by the Township.



YOU CAN HELP EAST BRADFORD DETECT STREAM POLLUTION!

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently required East Bradford Township, as well as many other communities in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region, to obtain a permit for its storm drainage system. The permit requires the Township to locate and map all stormwater piping and drainage ditch systems owned and maintained by the Township that are within the Township limits. The permit also requires the Township to periodically inspect the drainage systems to detect any “illicit discharges” from the systems.

What in the world is an illicit discharge? Avoiding all of the technical jargon, an illicit discharge is something that is exiting a storm drainage piping system or drainage ditch that is not stormwater and that could potentially pollute our streams. Examples of illicit discharges that would be typical for a community like East Bradford are septic system overflows, vehicle washing water, pool water, paints, vehicle fluids, etc.

While the Township thoroughly inspected its drainage system once since the permit was issued, our inspectors can't be everywhere all the time. If you happen to see something exiting a storm pipe or ditch that looks, smells, or feels like something other than stormwater, please contact the Township so we can track it to its source and keep East Bradford's streams as clean and pure as possible.

Fun Fact
How much rain can a tree retain?
One mature tree reduces stormwater runoff by over 1,000 gallons per year!

Reverse 9-1-1 Notifications

REVERSE 911 is a program that launches pre-recorded emergency messages via telephone using a combination of a telephone database and geographic information system computer mapping technologies. The system can quickly target a precise geographic area of East Bradford and saturate it with thousands of calls. Some of the many usage examples of the system include emergency evacuations, deteriorating weather moving into our area, missing person alerts, natural disaster alerts, hazardous material leaks, neighborhood emergency incidents, and homeland security issues.

The township emergency management coordinator contacts the Chester County 911 Center to activate REVERSE 911 with the specific area or area(s) to be targeted and the necessary emergency message. In the event of a major emergency, specific instructions to either evacuate or “shelter in place” will be given in the recorded message.

Be aware, REVERSE 911 does **NOT** work on phone lines that have call screening or are unpublished in their telephone provider’s database. Citizens that have unlisted or unpublished phone lines or have recently moved into East Bradford and want to be added to the REVERSE 911 call database can do so by contacting the township emergency management coordinator at emc@eastbradford.org or by mailing in your request to East Bradford Township, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. Your telephone listing will remain unpublished and the number will not be released to anyone outside of emergency services.

The incorporation of the REVERSE 911 system represents East Bradford Township’s continuing commitment to providing our citizens with the most advanced warning technologies available to ensure that our local public safety is as effective as possible.

Attention East Bradford Township Residents

If you or someone you know would need special evacuation assistance or attention in the event of a major emergency or long term power failure within the township please take a moment to contact the township Emergency Management Coordinator.

Examples would include those who are oxygen dependant, bed ridden, have severe medical conditions, are unable to walk, and or require electricity for legitimate medical reasons. Please include the name, address, telephone number and reason for assistance for that person and the information will be included in the township Emergency Operations Plan and will be kept on file at the Chester County 911 Center. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Requests should be in writing to the Emergency Management Coordinator at:

E-mail: emc@eastbradford.org or Regular Mail: Eric Ruggeri, Emergency Management Coordinator, East Bradford Township, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380-1822



Is Your House Number Properly Posted for Your Safety?

Did you know that Chapter 46 of the Code of the Township of East Bradford requires all buildings, residential and commercial, to post the street address numbers of the property on the building’s front or otherwise separately mounted in the front yard of the property? The numbers should be Arabic in design, have a minimum height of three inches and be mounted in a secure fashion to the principal building’s front or in an approved manner on a post, wall or mailbox in the front yard of the premises. The numbers should be visible from the center line of the street and not obstructed by trees, shrubs or other obstructions. If you have a driveway accessing more than one house, all numbers should be posted at the entrance of the driveway at the main road and also where the driveways split off to each home. You can review the entire Chapter on the Township Web Site at www.eastbradford.org

1234

You Can be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Polluted stormwater run-off is the greatest threat to clean water.
Practice these healthy household habits and
you will be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution.

Healthy Household Habits

1. Keep your nearest storm drain clear of debris and litter.
2. Never dump anything down a storm drain.
3. Use fertilizers sparingly.
4. Use pesticides only when necessary.
5. Do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street.
6. Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down paved areas.
7. Compost or recycle yard waste.
8. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
9. Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved area.
10. Service your car regularly to prevent leaks onto paved areas.
11. Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated collection locations.
12. Produce less waste – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
13. Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products when ever possible.
14. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected every three years (Twp. requirement).



Construction Activities Which Require a Township Permit

The list below helps to clarify when permits are needed for construction or other activities within East Bradford Township. If you are uncertain or have questions please do not hesitate to contact the Township Codes Enforcement Officer, Brenden Beaumont at 610-436-5108.

- Additions to structures such as, but not limited to, a porch, sun room, bedroom or garage
- Basement—finishing or remodeling
- Bathrooms—adding or remodeling that requires new plumbing or new electrical work
- Kitchens—remodeling that requires new plumbing, electrical work, cabinetry or appliances
- Decks—new or replacement
- Retaining walls over 4' high
- Swimming Pools—in ground or above ground pools over 24" deep
- Hot tubs and spas
- Accessory structures, such as sheds, garages, greenhouses
- Walls—removal of or installation of any wall
- Doors—if existing opening is enlarged
- Roofing—Required for sheathing and or rafter replacement
- Windows—if existing opening will be enlarged or decreased in size in sleeping rooms
- HVAC systems such as new heat pumps, furnaces, oil burner, boilers, air conditioning (does not include window units)
- Plumbing—new supply, drain, waste or vent lines
- Driveways (new or enlarged), permit issued by Township Public Works
- Wells (new or replacement), permit issued by Chester County Health Department
- Septic systems (new, replacement or repair), permit issued by Chester County Health Department
- Earth moving involving the disturbance of 5000 square feet or more or 100 cubic yards or grade change greater than 6 inches, permit issued by the Township Engineer
- Storm water management—change to existing storm water management system or new impervious coverage, permit issued by the Township Engineer
- Alarm systems—permit issued by the Township Office
- Accessibility features such as ramps, lifts or elevators, permit issued by PA Dept. of Labor & Industry
- Fire Suppression or sprinkler systems
- Signs
- Change of use of the structure



We now have building permit forms on line at www.eastbradford.org.
Click on "Forms" on the site map.

HOME PROTECTION TIPS FROM THE WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

As you begin to work and prepare your home for the spring & summer seasons it is important to consider that there is one crime that you can do more to protect yourself from than any other. It is **burglary**. The average burglar likes things made easy for him. He's always looking for a fast way in. What can you do? To start you can make it difficult for the criminal to victimize you. As you begin to work outside around your home remember to keep all of your shrubs around entrance doors and basements well trimmed so that a burglar doesn't have a concealed place to work. Here are thirteen other suggestions:

1. Display your house number prominently with reflective numbers, so that it can be easily seen from the street by police officers responding to your call for assistance. (see page 3 about township requirements for posting of numbers)
2. Update locks, especially when you change houses. Use double cylinder locks with a one (1) inch deadbolt. Install a reinforced strike-plate and keeper. A peephole is also a good investment
3. Sliding doors are particularly vulnerable, especially because they are most often located in the rear of the residence, where burglars often find less chance of exposure. Sliding door security is aimed at two (2) things: preventing an intruder from sliding the door open, and preventing the door from being pried up and out of the track when locked. Commercial locking devices should be installed.
4. If an intruder can't get in your doors, windows are the next best bet. Those on the first floor and at the ground level are most vulnerable, but don't overlook those on the second floor. A determined housebreaker will do some climbing if he has to. The objective is to prevent a burglar from prying a window open. He wants to avoid breaking glass because he doesn't want to attract attention. Screens and storm windows help provide a first line of defense.
5. Don't leave extra keys in a mailbox, under the doormat, over the door, or in some other likely place. Every member of the family should have their own key. Don't pass out other keys to tradesman or workman. Garage doors should be kept locked at all times, and ladders should be secured.
6. Remember that the best lock in the world is no good if you carelessly open your door without knowing who is there. Be wary of salesmen, solicitors, and utility employees. They should have proper credentials. Ask to see these credentials and examine them before letting anyone in your house, and / or call the company office for verification. East Bradford Township requires anyone going door to door to have a solicitors permit; contact the police immediately if someone can not supply the proper credentials or permit.
7. Make sure your home doesn't attract burglars. Outside lighting is a good deterrent to prowlers. Don't leave tools, ladders, furniture and playthings outside overnight. These items can help the burglar enter your house.
8. When leaving for the evening, make sure your home looks occupied. Don't pull the shades down and leave notes indicating when you will return. Put lights on automatic timers to make your home look occupied.
9. Going on vacation? Notify the police department when you will be leaving and when you will return. We will keep a special watch on your home. Check all doors and windows to make sure they are locked. Have a neighbor check your home and pick up your deliveries. Let them know where to contact you. Have the Post Office hold your mail. Start a buddy system with your neighbor in which you watch each other's homes. Watch for unexpected movers and repairmen at the house where no one is home.
10. Be prepared to minimize your loss if you are burglarized. Deposit cash you don't need in the bank. Consider keeping your jewelry, coin collections and other valuables in a safe deposit box.
11. Keep serial numbers of cameras, watches, TV's etc. Take photos of valuables you cannot otherwise mark by engraving. Take part in OPERATION I.D. by engraving your valuables with your drivers license number (never use your social security number). Keep an inventory list.
12. Housebreakers are also big fans of society pages, especially the article announcing where and when certain families will be traveling. Don't advertise your plans beforehand. Should a family member die, have a neighbor or friend "house sit", as death notices are printed daily in the newspapers.
13. When returning home, check for indications of possible trouble. If anything seems wrong, **DO NOT ENTER.** Go to your neighbor's house and call the police at once.

The West Chester Police Department wishes you and your family a safe summer. If you have questions, concerns, or wish to notify the Police Department of your vacation plans please contact us at 610-696-2700.

Do You Have A Disaster Supply Kit?

Having a disaster supply kit ready ensures that you will have the necessary supplies no matter what the emergency. If you pack supplies in duffel bags or back packs you will have them available to take with you if have to evacuate because of a weather emergency or terrorist emergency. Store them in a location that is easily accessible and known by all family members. Make sure to check expiration dates on all items and check the kit at least every six months.

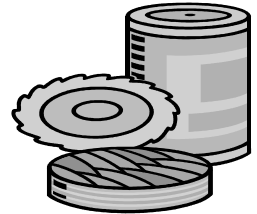
Water:

Pack at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days. Store water in tightly sealed, non-breakable plastic, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Change your water supply every six months.



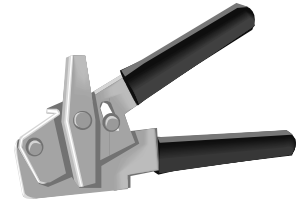
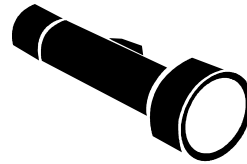
Food:

Pack enough food to last each family member at least three days. Include canned and boxed foods because they require little preparation and stay fresh for long periods of time. Remember to bring a manual can opener or to buy food in self-opening cans. Pack foods in sealed metal or plastic containers. Replace foods every six months. Include foods for infants and family members with special diets.



Tools and Equipment:

First Aid Kit
Battery powered radio
Flashlights
Spare batteries
Re-sealable plastic bags
Washcloths and towels
Paper cups and plates and plastic utensils.
Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and other toiletries
Heavy duty plastic garbage bags
Change of clothing and an extra pair of shoes and socks for each person
Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person



Personal Items:

Personal identification
Copies of birth and marriage certificates, inventory of household goods, bank account numbers and other important documents
Extra keys for your house and vehicles
Prescription medications
Maps of the area and state



Do You Live in a Floodplain?

The summer is quickly approaching and with it increased rainfall. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind residents living in or near a floodplain about the Township's floodplain regulations.

Section 115-42 of the East Bradford Code contains rules and regulations for properties that are located in the floodplain. (You can view the Code for yourself by visiting the Township's website (www.eastbradford.org – go to the bottom of the home page and click on "Code of the Township" or by stopping into the Township office.) Compliance with the Code is critical to your family's safety as well as the health and safety of those living downstream of you. Further, failure to comply with these rules could result in the Township pursuing legal enforcement against you, which is unpleasant and expensive for all involved. Below is a list of things you can do to help ensure your compliance with this section.

- Secure objects that could float away if inundated by flood waters. This includes deck furniture, outdoor grills, lawn and garden equipment, vehicles, and the like. All objects that are not secured must be stored above the base flood elevation. If your home is elevated, no materials of any kind may be stored, kept, or placed under the structure.
- Do not store any flammable or toxic materials (including propane, gasoline, and other chemicals) which, if inundated or otherwise released into the stream, would degrade or pollute the stream or cause damage if swept downstream. Again, if your home is elevated, these items may not be stored, kept, or placed under the structure.
- Talk to the Township about any plans to erect a fence or stone-wall that could impede or alter the flow of water during a flood event.
- Before extending, altering, or converting any structures on your property, discuss your intentions with the Township codes enforcement officer and/or zoning officer before starting your project.

In addition to the precautions listed above, you might decide to retrofit your home to protect it from flooding. The Township encourages retrofitting! One of the most common types of retrofitting is elevating the home so that the lowest floor is at or above the base flood elevation. To learn more about retrofitting options, talk to the codes enforcement officer, Brenden Beaumont: 610-436-5108.

Township officials are carefully monitoring all floodplain properties on an on-going basis. So, if you have any questions concerning floodplain regulations or property maintenance, please contact the township.



On Lot Sewage System Maintenance Program

This maintenance program requires septic owners to pump their system every three (3) years. Most septic systems have enough space for approximately 3 years worth of accumulation. Having your system pumped approximately every 3 years will extend the life of your system and could save you thousands of dollars in future repairs. Failing septic systems can contaminate drinking water, as well as nearby lakes and streams. Regular pumping will protect your investment and the quality of life in your community. Copies of Ordinance #7-2004 are available at the Township office. The following points summarize important elements of the ordinance:

- By December 31, 2010, and every three years thereafter, each on-lot system in East Bradford Township must be pumped out by a licensed hauler. Contact the Chester County Health Department for a list of licensed haulers at (610) 344-6225 or cchd@chesco.org.
- Property owners must direct the hauler to report the pumping to the Chester County Health Department's central database.
- There is no charge for the administration of this ordinance. However, property owners who fail to have their system pumped within the three (3) year period will be charged a \$25 administration fee. Continued non compliance with the provisions of this ordinance may be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$300 and not more than \$2,000 plus costs.
- If the Township becomes aware of a system that is malfunctioning, it will be reported to the Chester County Health Department. All repairs and replacements require a permit from the Health Department. If you have any questions you should contact the Township at 610-436-5108.

East Bradford Township
666 Copeland School Road
West Chester, PA 19380-1822
(610) 436-5108
www.eastbradford.org

EAST BRADFORD DAY 2008
Saturday, September 27, 2008
11 am—4 pm
At the Stroud Preserve
Family Fun for All
Music - Art - Nature
Watch for more info in the newsletter and on our website

For Your Health & Safety
Special Edition Newsletter
Spring 2008

Spring Curbside Leaf Collection
Saturday, April 19th & May 3rd
Place leaves in brown paper leaf bags
curbside by 6AM



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U. S. POSTAGE PAID
WEST CHESTER, PA
PERMIT NO. 154

Township Meeting Schedule.
All meetings are held in the
Township Building:

- **Board of Supervisors**
2nd Tuesday each month (7:00 P.M.)
Work Session Thursday prior (Noon)
Work Session 2nd Tue (6:00 P.M.)
- **Planning Commission**
1st Tuesday each month (7:30 P.M.)
Work Session 4th Tuesday (7:30 P.M.)
- **Historical Commission**
3rd Tuesday each month (7:00 P.M.)
- **Parks & Recreation Board**
4th Wednesday each month (7:30 P.M.)
- **Open Space Review Board**
4th Tuesday each month (6:00 P.M.)
- **Environmental Advisory Counsel**
4th Monday each month (7:00 P.M.)
- **East Bradford Day Committee**
3rd Wednesday each month (7:00 P.M.)
- **Zoning Hearing Board, H.A.R.B.
& Building Code Appeals Board**
(As needed)

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
(610) 436-5108
Fax (610) 436-8652
WEB SITE—www.eastbradford.org

All meetings, are open to the public,
except Executive Sessions of the Board of
Supervisors & OSRB.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Sat, April 5, 2008 9am—3pm
Household Hazardous Waste & Computers
CAT Pickering—Center for Arts & Technology
1580 Charlestown Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Sat. May 17, 2008 9am—3pm
Household Hazardous Waste Only
Owen J. Roberts High School
981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA

Sat. September 13, 2008 9am—3pm
Household Hazardous Waste Only
New Garden Township Building
8934 Gap Newport Road
Landenberg, PA

Sat. October 11, 2008 9am—3pm
Household Hazardous Waste & Computers
Government Services Center
601 Westtown Road
West Chester, PA

These words identify HHW:
Caution, Toxic, Danger, Flammable, Warning,
Corrosive, Explosive, Reactive, Combustible,
Poisonous, Hazardous.

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:
Latex (water-based) paint, Explosives, Ammunition,
Appliances, Radioactive waste, Tires, Infectious waste,
Unidentified waste.