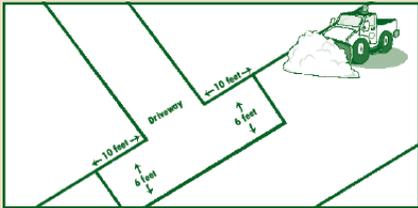


## Winter is Coming

### Mailbox Damage

Each year the Township fields phone calls from residents who believe their mail box was hit by a plow truck during a snow event. Occasionally, this does happen. In the event a snow plow physically hits and damages the mailbox and/or post, we will reimburse the property owner up to a maximum cost of \$100. But more often than not, it is simply the force of the snow coming off the plow blade that causes a mailbox to come off its post or a rotted post to break off. It is not caused by the plow actually hitting the box or post, but by the weight of the snow itself. In these instances, the property owner is responsible for the repairs or replacement. Residents must report any claim of damage to the Township within three business days of the snow event by contacting Public Works Director John Carroll (jcarroll@eastbradford.org or 610-436-5108 x201). Mr. Carroll will inspect the damage and determine the cause.



### Shoveling Your Driveway

When shoveling your driveway, leave the last six feet of your drive unshoveled until the plowing has ceased. This unshoveled part will allow the snow being pushed by the plow to remain on the plow blade so that it does not get dumped into your drive. If you must shovel out your drive, clear a six foot area of the road that is directly in front of the mouth of your drive. In addition, clear ten feet before and after the mouth of your drive, so that when the plow comes through, it will unload snow that it is pushing in the cleared area and not in the mouth of your drive.

## Helping Those Who Help Us

It doesn't happen often, but when there is a medical emergency and we have to dial 9-1-1, it can be scary and stressful. We want to know that help will arrive quickly.

We know how to dial 9-1-1, but what really happens when we make that call? Emergency calls are routed to the 911 Center at the Chester County Government Services Offices on Westtown Road. The call taker determines the location of the emergency and asks the caller to describe the situation. They then transmit this information to the dispatcher (police or fire) who in turn sends notification to the applicable departments (ambulance, fire, and/or police). For a medical-related emergency, it is most likely Good Fellowship Ambulance who will respond.

Good Fellowship is located on Montgomery Avenue in West Goshen Township on a property they share with Chester County Hospital. The organization is supported by approximately 118 personnel—88 emergency medical technicians, 10 advanced emergency medical technicians, and 25 paramedics. It is important to note that over half of this workforce (66 personnel) are volunteers. Good Fellowship serves East Bradford Township along with 9 other municipalities. (Approximately 10% of their overall call volume comes from East Bradford residents.)



Like other emergency response organizations (e.g. fire companies), Good Fellowship is faced with budgetary challenges each year. The organization's overall operating expenditures are approximately \$2.2 million, with revenue hovering around \$1.6 million. By way of example, the 2017 audited financial statements show a \$987,000 deficit prior to donations, grants, and fundraising (which help to reduce the deficit to roughly \$600,000).

A large portion of Good Fellowship's revenue (80%) comes from insurance providers. However, it is worth noting that insurance reimbursements are capped from both Medicare and Medicaid at an amount that does not cover the expense of the ambulance response. Private insurance, which used to compensate for the loss of every Medicare and Medicaid transport, is now becoming harder to collect from the insurance company, and matters are complicated even more when the patient receives payments directly. Further, there has been a shift towards high deductible plans, which causes many ambulance bills to be paid out of pocket by the patient.

Beyond insurance dollars, about 10% of the revenue comes from grants and fundraising, 5% from memberships and subscriptions, and 1.5% from direct municipal contributions. (East Bradford has typically contributed \$16,000 per year—\$6,000 from the Township General Fund and about \$10,000 via pass-through State funds.) Finally, although not a tangible financial receipt, the money saved by the volunteer support noted earlier is an important part of the equation—volunteers save the organization over \$300,000 in manpower expenses each year. *Continued on Page 11*

## New Protections from Condemnation

If there is one theme that embodies the essence of East Bradford Township, it's open space. Preservation of open space became a focus as early as 1985, during the comprehensive planning process. Initial efforts in preservation focused on zoning and subdivision regulations aimed at preserving sensitive environmental features. Years later, in 1998, elected officials decided to augment these regulatory tools by acquiring property interests—either via conservation easement or outright ownership. Township officials placed questions on ballots in 1998 and 2000, asking residents if they would support an earned income tax for open space protection. Both referenda were successful. Today, residents contribute ¼% of their earned income towards open space preservation.

This funding stream has enabled the Township to borrow approximately \$15.5 million to acquire property interests. We have used these funds (and dollars leveraged from other entities) to preserve about 3,800 acres. This is in addition to roughly 2,800 acres that are protected by regulation (e.g. steep slopes, floodplains). All in all, approximately 6,300 acres (over 60% of our total land mass) is protected in one way or another.

This is all great, but it takes additional effort to ensure that the lands we have acquired or protected with a conservation easement will remain open for future generations. For example, when we receive funding from county, state, or federal agencies, additional restrictions are placed on the land. The Township has also placed conservation easements on most of its own properties to ensure that a land trust keeps an eye on Township actions in perpetuity.

In June, all these efforts benefited from one more layer of protection. The Pennsylvania Legislature adopted Act 45 of 2018, amending Title 26 (Eminent Domain) to make it more difficult for public entities to condemn land that is subject to a conservation easement. If a political subdivision, authority, public utility, or other such entity, pursues condemnation on land that is subject to an easement, they must first obtain approval from the orphan's court of the county. As with any law, there are some exceptions, but the overarching result of this action is positive for Pennsylvania, Chester County, and East Bradford Township. We are thankful to our legislators for their support. ●

## Helping Those Who Help Us (Continued from Page 6)

The expense side of the budget continues to change, too. As with fire companies, volunteer staffing is dwindling, requiring more paid staff to cover community needs. Certified experienced providers are also in high demand and are therefore able to command competitive pay rates. All the while, demand for ambulance services are increasing with the population and the cost of supplies and equipment continuing to rise. Suffice to say, Good Fellowship and other emergency responders are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain services. Supporting these organizations requires a community effort. One way to provide support is through volunteering. Good Fellowship offers volunteer opportunities for everyone between the age of 14 and 114. No experience is needed and training is provided at no cost to the volunteer. Donations and memberships are another important mechanism of support. The organization will be launching its fall fundraising campaign later this year—be on the lookout for a flyer in the mail. For more information or to donate now, visit <http://www.goodfellowship.org/>. (Special thanks to Good Fellowship Executive Director Kimberly Holman for her collaboration on this article.) ●

## Emergency Preparedness

During crises, emergency responders and public agencies are juggling a wide variety of issues and needs. Here are three tools you can use to streamline emergency support and acquire information.

### Smart 911

In January 2017, Chester County Department of Emergency Services introduced Smart911, an emergency preparedness program. Smart911 is a free service that allows individuals and families to create a safety profile online, which provides key information to Chester County's 9-1-1 Center. Safety profiles can be created at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com). Residents can customize their profile and share any information they want the 9-1-1 call taker and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. You can include details such as a list of family members, photos, medical notes, pets, and emergency contacts. The information is seen only when the resident dials 9-1-1 and it is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing him or her to send the right response team to the right location with the right information.

### PECO Outage Map

PECO developed the on-line outage map to communicate outage location and status throughout their service area. To view outage information, visit <https://www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx> and use the navigation tools to explore the map. Or, you may call PECO at 1-800-841-4141 to report power outages, gas leaks, or downed electric wires.

### ReadyChesCo

Be sure to register for ReadyChesCo and receive information on emergencies like flooding, evacuations, and other weather matters. Get emergency and related information directly to your home phone, work phone, smartphone, or tablet. Register at [www.readychesco.org](http://www.readychesco.org).