

# Salisbury Township News

2008– Volume 1

**Salisbury Township**  
5581 Old Phila. Pike  
Gap, PA 17527  
(717)768-8059- Ph.  
(717)768-3660- Fax  
twp@comcast.net  
salisburytownship.org

**Office Hours:**

Mon-Fri 7-4:30  
Zoning- 7-3:30

**Board of Supervisors**

Chairman

John L. Oberholser

Vice Chairman

Samuel E. Esh

Secretary-Treasurer

Lester O. Houck

**Sewage Enforcement  
& Zoning Officer**

Robert L. Mohn

**Public Works Director**

Alexander Balla

**Tax Collector**

Kirsten Wanner

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Public Sewer	2
Help	2
Sewer System	3
Fire Companies	3
Property Liability	4
Open Gov't	4

## RECYCLING NEWS

As a resident of Salisbury Township you are required to have a trash hauler and recycle. Some items that are recyclable are picked up at the curb by your trash hauler. These items include glass, plastics, alumi-

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cans) and tin cans (soup cans). All these items may be put in your recycling bin and placed at the curb for your trash hauler to collect. If you need a recycling bin, please contact the Township Office.

Other items that are recyclable are branches, shrubbery, leaves, etc. The Township has a drop-off facility for these items. The items may be dropped off at the Township 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The drop-off site is located at the Township building at 5581 Old Philadelphia Pike (next to the White Horse Inn). You will enter the gate on the east side of the parking lot

(closest to the Inn). There are large concrete bins where the items may be dropped. Please be sure there are not any other non-recyclable (metal, plastic, etc.) in with your yard waste.

***All residents of Salisbury Twp. are required by DEP to recycle.***

If you do not have a t r a s h

hauler, please contact one of the haulers listed in order to arrange trash removal service for your property. Here is a listing of the licensed haulers:

**BFI/Allied Waste**  
717-786-4659

**York Waste**  
717-581-8383

**C&S Disposal**  
717-445-0085

**B.L.R. Disposal**  
717-445-8268

**Quality Disposal**  
610-286-5172

**Eagle Disposal**  
717-355-9560

## Attention Farmers– May 30th

A free informational lunch meeting will be held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the White Horse Fire Hall. Coffee & Donuts will be served at 9:30 AM, with the meeting being held from 10 AM to noon. The meeting will be followed by a free lunch. **RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 FARMERS.** Call the Township office to make your reservation (717-768-8059). The agenda includes:

- \* Agricultural Committee update on zoning changes
- \* Review the planting season with Grant Troop, Penn State, and Gideon Stoltzfus, Pequea Planter
- \* Lancaster Farmland Trust on farm preservation
- \* Soil & water conservation practices.

*Sponsored by the Lancaster Co. Conservation District*

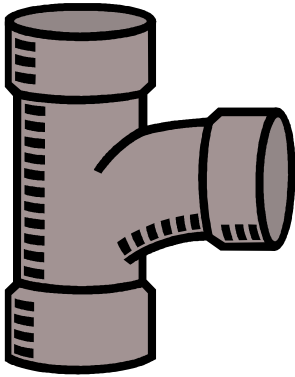
### Township Meetings:

Supervisors- 1st & 3rd Tuesday of month- 7:00 PM

Planning Commission- 2nd Tuesday of month- 7:00 PM

Zoning Hearing Board- 4th Tuesday of month- 7:00 PM

## *PUBLIC SEWER COSTS*



Every gallon of water treated at the Waste Water Treatment Plant increases costs to the users.

In order to help control costs, we need your help. The sewer laterals that run from your home to the main sewer line, there are standpipes or cleanouts that may be missing the caps or fittings, allowing an open hole into the sewer system. Over the years the standpipe caps get damaged by lawnmowers, vehicles, construction, etc.

If you have this on your property, please contact the Township office so that we can re-

place them in order to stop surface water from entering the sewer system, requiring more treatment costs, and also to keep items from accidentally going into the sewer line, or from being dropped into the sewer line by children. Any objects in the line could cause a sewer backup into your home.

## *WE NEED YOUR HELP!*

The Township is experiencing problems with property destruction, graffiti on playground equipment, damage and graffiti inside of public restrooms and facilities at the Salisbury Township Park.

We are also noticing an increase in road signs that are being spray painted and stolen, along with road grates, for sale as scrap metal. This has become more of a problem over the last several years. The cost to repair and replace the damaged property is one aspect, but more importantly the safety and appearance that this destruction causes cannot be measured in dollar values.

The Township has been making some advances in connecting with authorities the

person(s) that are responsible for the theft or destruction. The Township needs help from the residents to help control this problem. If you see a suspicious vehicle parked along a road that may be involved in this type of activity, please jot down the vehicle license plate number and any visual descriptions of individuals, you may anonymously submit it to the Township by voice mail or a note.

If you are at the Township park and you observe any actions that are in violation of the signs posted at the park or if it appears that their intentions are not to be at the park for recreational enjoyment of the park but for any destructive, mischievous or illegal activities, please forward any observations and descriptions

of individuals to the Township office. Photos by cameras or cell phones would be a great asset to the Township in order to help forward the information to the police to connect the dots and identify the individuals.

**PLEASE DO NOT CONFRONT ANYONE AND KEEP YOUR OBSERVATIONS ANNONYMOUS.**

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but please do not confront anyone or put anyone in harms' way to obtain pictures or other helpful information.

***We need your help at the Salisbury Township Park and throughout the community.***

## *SEWER SYSTEM UPDATE*

During the last year and a half, the Gap Waste Water Treatment Plant has been under reconstruction to double the capacity of the plant and also

***Salisbury Township has not increased its public sewer usage fee since the system was started in 1984***

to meet the new permitting requirements from the PA Department of Envi-

ronmental Protection (DEP), which are more stringent requirements to meet the Chesapeake Bay Discharge Require-

ments. The new regulations, BNR (Biological Nitrate Removal) will become effective in the year 2011.

This \$4 million project was funded in part by a \$2 million grant and a Pennvest loan. The planning for this project started in the year 2000, with the Part 1 & Part 2 permitting process, and the Part 3 permitting occurring in 2005. Construction started in late 2006 and all items should be completed by May 30, 2008.

When this project was planned it was planned with no increase in quarterly user fees or connection fees. As of 2008 we are still on target

for no increase in user or connection fees and anticipate the possibility of a reduction of quarterly user fees in the future if no unexpected changes are made by future DEP permitting process that would require future expensive updates.

We are also pleased to report that the Rosehill Waste Water Treatment Plant has also been updated to meet the new Chesapeake Bay BNR permit requirements. Changes were made over the last year and a half and the plant is operating well.

## *VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES NEED YOU!*

Have you donated to your fire company? Both the Gap Fire Company and the White Horse Fire Company are 100% volunteer groups. In order for a volunteer fire company to continue to operate, 2 things are needed, volunteers and finances. If one of those 2 things is not available, a volunteer fire company will cease to exist. The only option at that time is to have a paid fire company supported with tax dollars.

How important is it to you to have a local fire company available to respond to your home or business when the need arises. Please donate

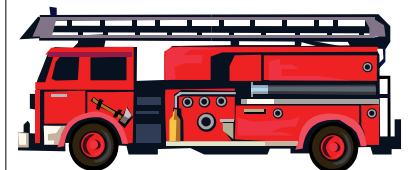
generously to the White Horse & Gap Fire Companies. Your financial contributions are needed.

Please also consider volunteering your time to help the fire companies. Not everyone has to be trained to respond to fire and emergency calls. There are many other jobs within the volunteer fire company system that needs volunteers.

Please mail your financial contributions or place your phone call to be a volunteer directly to the fire company.

Gap Fire Company  
P.O. Box 487  
Gap, PA 17527  
(717-442-8100)

White Horse Fire  
111 White Horse Road  
Gap, PA 17527  
(717-768-3454)



## *PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITY*

Please do not put yourself, as a property owner, in the position of being sued. If a vehicle runs off the paved road portion and onto the road right-of-way and hits an object that does damage to their vehicle or causes injury to someone, the property owner can be held responsible if the property owner placed something in the road right-of-way to obstruct vehicle traffic.

There are some items that have been approved to be placed in the road right-of-way, such as regulatory signs. Regulatory signs include stop signs, speed limit signs and road directional signs. By PennDOT state laws, a sign post must be approved to break-away in the event that they are hit by a vehicle. Mailboxes fall under Federal regulations. Mailboxes can be placed in the road right-of-way if they are constructed to the Federal regulations that also have

break-away structures and the size of structures indicated. It is recommended that anyone placing a mailbox in the right-of-way ask the Postal Service for the approved construction methods.

If you place rocks, fence posts, fence rails, road markers, etc. in the road right-of-way, make sure they are approved and are break-away or are made of material that will not cause damage to vehicles. When residents place objects within the road right-of-way to possibly stop someone from running over the edge of their yard, they are inviting a lawsuit to be filed against them as a property owner. It's very unfortunate that residents need to place items at the edge of the road to keep vehicles out of yards, but this does happen on a regular basis.

The thought of a lawsuit is one thing, but more impor-

tantly is that any injury that may be caused to an individual is a major factor. It would be difficult to carry the burden of causing injury to another person. Not only could the persons in the vehicle be injured, but the object in the road right-of-way could be propelled by the vehicle onto the roadway or private property injuring someone on the property. Unfortunately in today's society people are looking for things to hit to have someone else pay for previously existing damage on their vehicle.

**PROTECT YOURSELF!**



## *TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT IS OPEN GOVERNMENT*

A recent newspaper editorial proclaimed that "the citizens of Pennsylvania for too long have been the victim of one of the least open governmental systems, both at the state and local levels."

This is a popular sentiment in these reform-minded times. However, if you stop by your township office or attend a board of supervisors meeting, you will quickly learn that quite the opposite is true. Far

from being shrouded in mystery, townships and the officials that serve them are an open book, conducting most business for all eyes to see and willingly turning over public records to citizens who request them.

This isn't something new. Townships have operated this way for many decades, guided by several state laws, including the Open Records/Right-to-Know Act, which passed in

1957 and made it possible for citizens to have greater access to state and local government documents. This information not only details the inner workings of government but also sheds light on how tax dollars are being spent.

"Lately, in Harrisburg and elsewhere, there's been a lot of talk about making government more open," says R. Keith Hite, executive director

of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, which represents the commonwealth's 1,455 townships of the second class.

'That's understandable. Ever since the controversy involving the legislative pay raise, which ushered more than 50 new legislators into the Capitol, change has been in the air.

"While openness may be a problem in some branches of government, it's not a problem in local government, particularly township government. Why? Because local officials live in the communities they serve and are just a phone call away from their constituents. Therefore, doing the right thing is second nature. Without question, the accountability of these public servants is unmatched."

Still, lawmakers and powerful special interests have continued to question the effectiveness of the Open Records Law, which for the second time this decade has undergone significant changes.

The last time the Pennsylvania General Assembly rewrote the Right-to-Know Law was in 2002. This was done amidst feelings that the original act, passed more than four decades before, was antiquated and vague.

There was some truth to that. For instance, the courts have spent years trying to sort out what exactly constitutes a "public record" under the previous law's long-winded and convoluted definition.

The act tested others, too, including township officials, who also had difficulty interpreting it. However, the irony is, when lawmakers approved the 2002 rewrite, they included a clear list of do's and don'ts

for local officials but did nothing to clarify the definition of a public record.

All of that changed in February when Gov. Ed Rendell signed an updated version of the Open Records Law, which, for the first time in the state's history, brings the Pennsylvania General Assembly under its wing. The new law, scheduled to go into effect in January 2009, also asserts that all government records are public unless specifically included on a list of exempted documents.

For instance, public officials and employees won't be required to give up their Social Security numbers, home or personal cell phone numbers, and certain tax documents, among other things. Police investigation reports, employment applications, drafts of bills, and grievance materials are off limits, too.

"The exemption list is a good thing for townships and their residents because it takes the guesswork out of the equation," Hite says. "Now, residents don't have to wonder: 'Is this document something I'm entitled to see?' If it's not on the list, then they have every right to request a copy of that particular record."

The new Open Records Law also requires your township to designate an employee as its open records officer. This person will be your point of contact when seeking a record. The state will also be establishing an Office of Open Records in the Department of Community and Economic Development. This independent office will not only hear open records appeals but it will also train township officials on open records/meeting issues.

While the law includes several new provisions, it retains many of the same procedures that were established in the 2002 rewrite.

For instance, townships are still required to have an open records policy, which must be posted prominently in their office; they must respond to all written requests for records within five business days; they must have a solid legal reason for denying a request; and they must put that denial in writing.

The law also authorizes the courts to impose fines of up to \$1,500 on local officials who willfully violate the statute. In addition, violators may also be fined \$500 for each day they fail to comply with a court order to provide a record.

To a certain extent, the new Open Records Law is a direct result of the controversial legislative pay raise of 2005. Since then, reform-minded lawmakers, special interests, and citizen groups have been pushing for greater government transparency.

Hite believes that the law sends a powerful message to Pennsylvanians: that officials at all levels of government support meaningful reform. At the same time, though, he points out that openness is nothing new for Pennsylvania's townships.

"Local government is the government closest to the people," Hite says. "That's why you'll always find the door to your township and its records open. That's just good governing. And that's what today's townships are all about."



Salisbury Township  
5581 Old Phila. Pike  
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Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Gap, PA 17527  
Permit No. 19

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**Important:**

Check us out on our website at: [www.salisburytownship.org](http://www.salisburytownship.org)

*UPCOMING DATES*

**MAY 26th**

Memorial Day– the Township Office will be closed.

**MAY 30th**

Farmer’s meeting at the White Horse Fire Company. Call 717-768-8059 to register. See page 1 for details.



**JUNE 30th**

This is the last day to pay your real estate tax bill at the base amount. Anything received at the of-

rice after this date or post-marked after June 30th will not be accepted. A 10% penalty will be added.

**JULY 4th**

The Township Office will be closed for Independence Day.

**SEPTEMBER 1st**

The Township Office will be closed for Labor Day.

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

- \* **Afghans**– of Gap and surrounding area. Available in blue and green. Please contact Kathleen Denlinger (717-442-4863) to purchase- \$45.
- \* **Salisbury Township History Books**- \$25- available at the Township Office
- \* **Bellevue Church and White Horse Inn Cat’s Meow**- \$13– available at the Township Office.