



# THE HARBINGER

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

VOLUME VIII - ISSUE I

FALL 2006

## Meeting Times

- Board of Supervisors meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 PM and the Regular Meeting begins approximately at 7:00 PM.
- The Planning Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- The Sewer Authority meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- The Technology Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.
- The Environmental Advisory Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- The Recreation Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

## CONTACT US

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## NEW HANOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Historical Society recently used lumber salvaged from the barn dismantled at the Swamp Creek Park to construct two replica outhouses behind the Swamp Creek Schoolhouse. These very necessary adjuncts to any 19th century building will give a more authentic understanding of the school day to visiting school groups. Historical Society carpenter Carl Gottshall took dimensional measurements from a remaining original school outhouse at Freed's School on Hill Road.

In addition to publishing The Historian in the Community Connection, the Historical Society meets at the schoolhouse the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. These meetings feature a program of historical interest or occasional trips to local historical sites. For information call Robert wood at 610-326-4165.

The first 72 Historian columns have been collected and published in *Swamp, New Hanover* on sale at the Township building, Suloman's Milk Store, The Shoppe at Minister Creek, and Hickory Park Restaurant. The sale benefits the Historical Society. Look for the society's booth at the Fall Frolic.



*Replica outhouses behind Swamp Creek Schoolhouse*

## STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Most of us live upstream and downstream of other residents. This unique mix subjects us to upstream actions and makes us responsible for our own actions. With that in mind, the unusual amount of flooding that has occurred in our area can be directly attributed to upstream destruction of wetlands, natural runoff corridors and riparian buffers (a band of trees, shrubs, or grasses that border a body of water). The destruction in our area of these features exacerbates the flooding for our downstream neighbors.

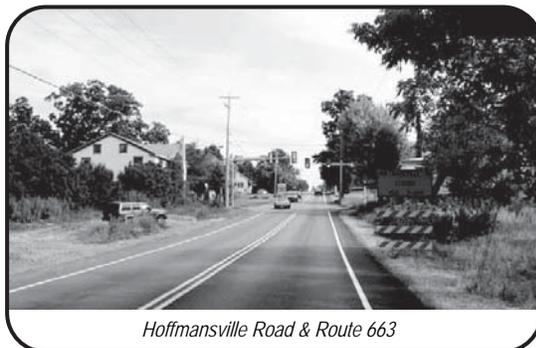
A simple experiment will help you visualize the importance of these natural features. To represent an area protected by these features, one can pour a bucket of water along a gravel road. The water pools up in some places gets absorbed in others and gets slowed down by the stones. To represent an area without these features one can funnel the same bucket of water down a hose. In this instance, the water rushes fast through the hose with little resistance and without absorption.

Development encroachment along watersheds limits the lands ability to slow down and absorb a flood. Additionally the development often worsens the situation by adding more impervious services and more source points of discharge. This is evident by the square footage of rooftops, driveways, paved roads and storm drains that replace nature's protective vegetative coating.

To make matters worse, uninformed property owners along these areas feel compelled by a vane sense of responsibility and beauty to cut down the streamside vegetation. The ignorance of these actions leads to an unsightly eroded stream bank and irresponsibly endangers the residents downstream of flooding.

## SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS

The township added two new signalized intersections. During this summer, the township installed a traffic signal at Route 663 and Hoffmansville Road and Route 663 and Hill Road to improve traffic movements during the morning and evening peak hours as well as cut down on the numerous accidents that occurred at these intersections.



*Hoffmansville Road & Route 663*



*Hill Road & Route 663*



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Fall is about to go into full swing. I hope everyone is enjoying their vacations. There have been many exciting things going on in New Hanover since the last Harbinger newsletter was issued.

We have a new Township Manager, Mr. Ed Wagner. Ed, formerly the Assistant Manager of Lower Pottsgrove Twp, has stepped in and has taken strides to streamline how things are done. Congratulations to Ed and many thanks for joining our team.

Many New Hanover residents enjoyed a bus trip to see the Phillies play in Citizen's Bank Park. The Phillies won the game (as I predicted in a meeting) and everyone had a great time. Thank you to Tom Howley and Eileen Pogany for putting this successful trip together. Thanks also to Chuck Gainer and Paul Bauer for their contribution toward covering the cost of the bus transportation.

This November a question will be placed on the ballot whether to consider increasing the earned income tax from 1.0 to 1.15%. If passed, the additional money will be used to purchase open space and development rights of property in the township. This money is not intended to be used to invoke eminent domain on any property owners. It is merely going to be used to preserve farmland and open space in the township. From past surveys, we learned that the number one issue was the fear of urban sprawl into our township and this is one way that we can combat it. More information will become available at the township office and on our website at [www.newhanoverpa.org](http://www.newhanoverpa.org).

We hired an additional police officer. Officer Coyne joined us from the Upper Merion Police Department where he was a Sergeant. He has a wealth of experience and computer expertise that will be utilized in New Hanover. Please join me in welcoming him to our police force.

If you drive North on Rt. 663 from Rt. 73 you will soon notice two new traffic lights. The light at Hoffmansville Road was turned into a full traffic light last month. In addition, a traffic light was installed at the intersection of Hill Road and Route 663. I believe these improvements will reduce the number of car crashes at these intersections. We are working to keep you safe.

The new town center at the former New Hanover Airport is taking shape on paper and groundbreaking will take place in about a year or so. After months and months of research and hard work, we will be creating a nice mix of commercial businesses and individual homes. The Main Street atmosphere will work very nicely with our rural community.

The Township's website has taken on a new look. We are proud of the updated, professional appearance of the site and wish to thank the Township's technology committee for volunteering their expertise in advising the Township on technology issues. We specifically wish to thank Anita Meehan for her assistance with the website on an on-going basis and also for transferring much of the information from our existing site into a new format; we welcome you to visit the site at [www.newhanoverpa.org](http://www.newhanoverpa.org) and view our facelift.

I hope everyone continues to have a safe and happy fall.

Marin Dyas, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

## SEWER AUTHORITY UPDATES

New Hanover Township is growing, as can be seen from all the new development around us. The New Hanover Township Authority has also been growing, in an effort to accommodate the new development, as well as assist the current residents. This past year has brought a lot of changes to the Authority, as will the next few years.

Currently the New Hanover Township Authority is involved in two projects to bring public sewer to residents that currently have on-lot systems. The Sassamansville Project, which has been a joint project with Douglass Township and the Berks Montgomery Municipal Authority, is finally underway after over 8 years of discussion. The Sassamansville Project consists of approximately a mile of pipe and will serve the existing homes on a portion of Hoffmansville Road. The second project is a small 600 foot extension servicing Faust and Wagner Roads, assisting longtime residents with problematic on-lot systems.

In addition to these projects, the Authority has two other projects that are improving the existing infrastructure in order to provide public sewer to current and future development. Currently, the Authority is building a new pumping station on New Hanover Square Road. This new pumping station will replace one the Authority has on Reifnyder Road and will convey wastewater from current users as well as future housing. Along with the pump station two main interceptor lines have been built. One line consists of a gravity line that will transport the wastewater from the old pumping station to new pumping station, which will then be transported by a pressure line to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Fagley'sville Road. The other line will collect flows from development that will occur in the area of Route 663 and Route 73. This project is expected to be complete in October.

The second major project that the Authority is undertaking is an expansion to the New Hanover Township Wastewater Treatment Plant. Currently the plant can treat 825,000 gallons per day. The expansion will allow us to treat 1.9 million gallons per day. The existing plant can serve approximately 3000 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs); however the new plant will be able to serve 7000 EDUs. The Authority received sealed bids for the plant expansion on July 25th. Once all of the permits have been secured from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection we will be able to award the contract and begin construction. The Authority hopes to begin construction in late September, and the expansion is expected to take 15 months to complete.

There will be many changes within the Township over the next few years. The Authority will be a part of that, driven by the desire of people to live within New Hanover Township. One of New Hanover Township Authority's goals is to help the Township improve the environmental conditions of the Township by eliminating failing on-lot systems. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Authority at 610-326-6203. The New Hanover Township Authority meets monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the New Hanover Township Wastewater Treatment Plant. The public is welcome to attend.

## Meet the Members

Ron Dahle  
Chairman

Richard Mulstay  
Vice Chairman

Chris Townsend  
Secretary

Tim Brennan  
Morell Smith  
Peter Lukens

## In Memoriam

This issue of the Environmental News is dedicated to the memory of Alison Murphy. Alison passed away on May 23 this year while this issue was in production. Alison was a founding member and first chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) seven years ago. She was the editor of this newsletter, and a strong advocate for recycling and composting.



Swamp Creek is cleaned up with the help of EAB, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, community volunteers and Boyertown Area High School students.

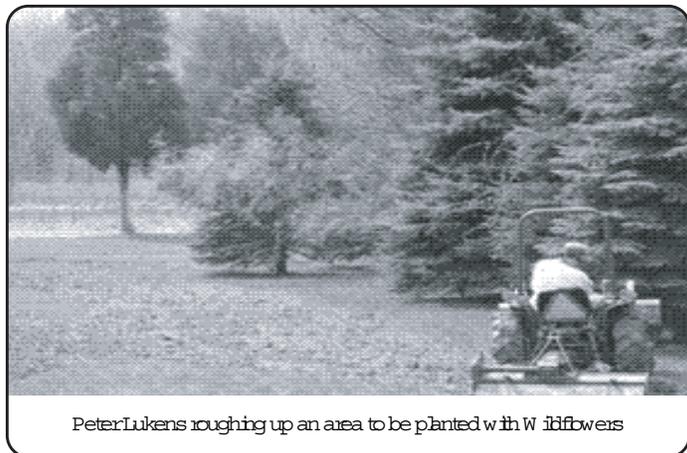
## Swamp Creek Clean-up

On a beautiful Friday morning in April, members of our community came out to clean-up Swamp Creek and its flood plain. The clean-up was coordinated by the EAB and Stormwater Management Committee in conjunction with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. Hats off to the community volunteers and Boyertown Area High School students who participated.



## DEEP CREEK Nature Center

The Environmental Advisory Board in agreement with the Parks and Recreation Board, began implementing plans to enhance environmental education at the Deep Creek Nature Center located at Deep Creek and Pleasant Run Roads. The 11.5 acre park consists of wetlands, woods, conifer grove, and meadows. Wildflower meadows and trails were installed this year with educational kiosks, picnic tables and wetlands' boardwalk planned for coming years. On April 15th, a sunny Saturday, Boyertown Area High School students from the environmental science class and other community volunteers began clearing trails and planting wildflower meadows, thanks to a gift from Cabot Superneta's.



Peter Lukens roughing up an area to be planted with Wildflowers

## Recycling Tips



- Junk mail is recyclable, but before you put it in the bin, remove all credit cards, cellophane wrappers, CDs, etc.
- Although the plastic grocery bags are #2 plastic, you can't curbside recycle them. Many stores take them back for recycling.
- Removing labels from your cans helps to recycle but is not mandatory.

## Pavement Sealants

Single source pollutants are often easily identifiable, make the headlines and eventually targeted for remediation. However, non-point pollution is probably more widespread and environmentally devastating. Often, this involves routine activities that we don't think much about until it is brought to our attention. This article will focus on a group of chemicals that most of us have never heard of, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAH's. These chemicals come from a variety of sources and have been shown to be highly toxic to aquatic animals and carcinogenic in humans.

One of the sources of PAH's that has, until recently, been overlooked are pavement sealants, widely used to help preserve parking lots and residential driveways. While no one really knows the quantity of sealants being used nationally, a recent government study in Texas found that more than 600,000 gallons were being applied annually in that state alone. These sealants, especially those that are coal tar based, erode from paved surfaces and the particles are carried both directly and indirectly (by way of stormwater basins) to our streams. The Texas study found that PAH concentrations in runoff from parking lots sealed with coal tar emulsions were 65 times higher than from unsealed surfaces.

Regular application as recommended by the manufacturers ensures that a steady supply of these toxins will be carried into local waterways. It is important to note the same study showed that the other commonly used asphalt based sealants, which do not abrade nearly as easily, cause only 10 percent more PAH's than unsealed surfaces.

As a homeowner, you can choose to make a difference. If you decide not to go so far as forgoing sealing your driveway, choose an asphalt based sealant. This will certainly help to reduce the rate at which these dangerous chemicals are released into our environment.

## Campers Learn That When It Rains, It Drains

In July 2005, the Environmental Advisory Board presented an educational program at the YMCA Summer Camp at the Community Park. As part of the camp's environmental week program the young campers learned why it is important to properly manage runoff rainwater from storms. Campers hiked around the park learning about the roles of wetlands, runoff gullies, Minister Creek and the whole Peikomen Watershed. Campers were then encouraged to create posters about why it is important to properly control water runoff. The best posters were awarded ribbons and displayed at the Township's annual Fall Foliic.



Pictured above, award winners (left to right): Tya Heagerty, Maria Moser, Lauren Mengel, Rachael Katz, Leah Williams, Kasey Sheahan, Rebecca Boone and Megan Biebsiek.

## Photo Contest Winners Announced

During the past year the EAB sponsored a photography contest to promote the natural beauty and resources of our township. Many terrific photos were received and we thank all who participated. In March, the EAB selected the winning photographs which are now on display in the Township Building and the EAB web page on the township's website: [www.newhanoverpa.org](http://www.newhanoverpa.org). Our sincere congratulations to the winners! Russell Devan, Tsia O'Brien, Chris Townsend, Gina Potanski, Moell Smith, Roberta Baryai, James Hand, Rich Mulstay, George Vasziy and Ron Dahlen. Photos received from all participants are also on display at the township building. Thanks to all who took the time to submit their photographs.

## Native Plants

My garden has a number of native plants. Generally they are easier to grow and require less maintenance if planted in an environment similar to where they grow best in the wild. Many gardeners make the mistake of choosing plants that are difficult to grow in this area, unless their natural environment is recreated; that generally requires more work, more fertilizing, and more watering.

Today, gardeners are encouraged to cut down on chemicals including fertilizers and chemicals to control weeds and pests. Native plants are those plants that grow in a specific region. Native plants have evolved over thousands of years to be adapted to a region. Non-native plants are those plants that were brought to the area by humans, whether accidentally or purposefully. Many of the flowers and vegetables typically grown in home gardens are non-native. Over the years, immigrants have brought the seeds of plants from their homelands, some of which have since spread into the wild. Invasive non-native plants are those plants that have escaped into the wild and are destroying the native plants.

The presence of native plants gives us a 'sense of place'. Natural areas allow people to experience and appreciate Pennsylvania's rich natural heritage. Native plants enable you to

create a visually pleasing and nature-friendly landscape. There are many organizations promoting the use of native plants.

The Pennsylvania Native Plant Society ([www.pawildflower.org](http://www.pawildflower.org)) is a good resource. It is a not-for-profit organization that helps people learn about and enjoy native plants found in Pennsylvania. It sponsors numerous field trips throughout the state. It also publishes a quarterly newsletter for members. They have links to many different sites. Check out the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania and their photo gallery. You can order a book on the Wildflowers of Pennsylvania.

Another good source is Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve ([www.bhwp.org](http://www.bhwp.org)). Their mission is to lead people to a greater appreciation of native plants, to an understanding of 'their importance to all life, and to a commitment to the preservation of a healthy and diverse natural world'. They have a list of various native plants for sale. Also, a list of 119 seeds for sale. Some of the more common names (the full names are on the site) on this list are: big blue stem, bleeding heart, coreopsis, columbine, butterfly weed, blue wood aster, New England aster, blue indigo, trumpet vine, mountain laurel, blazing star, cardinal flower, sunflower, eupatorium or peppy weed,

sunflower, St. John's wort, great blue bell, bee balm, foxglove, phlox, coneflower, salvia, spiderwort, etc. They also have a gem nation code which lists other important facts for starting the seeds. They have links to other important sites. Some of these are: The Audubon of Pennsylvania. You can click to 'Landscaping for a Healthy Planet'. They point out that 'native landscaping is becoming more popular every day! It's fun, easy, and you plant an environmentally friendly garden anywhere; your backyard, a rooftop, even on an abandoned city block. One component to environmental landscaping is the use of native plants; plants found in Pennsylvania prior to European settlement. These diverse and beautiful plants are not only used by wildlife for food, cover and shelter, they can save you energy, time and money'. Audubon provides information on bringing their conservation experience to you including gardening for birds. Next link to the Pennsylvania Fernal Project ([www.upenn.edu/pafbia](http://www.upenn.edu/pafbia)). Click onto the statistical summary of the flora of Pennsylvania. There are 2151 native plants in Pennsylvania. 434 are species of special concern. You can search their database for a plant. Hope these links help you make your garden more natural.

## PICKLE BALL

Pickle Ball has come to New Hanover Township! You say you haven't heard of it! It is a low impact game that is played similar to tennis and can be played by all ages. Once you have the opportunity to play pickle ball you will find it easy to learn and filled with lots of fun. You are welcome to join us every Friday afternoon in October starting at 1:00pm at the New Hanover Township Community Park. The park is located at 2766 Gail Drive. For more information on this very popular game, please contact Bill Geiner at (610) 326-6759. All are welcome, no registration is required.



## TOWNSHIP'S PARK SYSTEM



Realizing the need to preserve natural resources as the community continues to develop rapidly, township officials have been diligent in acquiring property for both forms of active and passive recreation. There needs to be a balance between the two in order to service the community. We urge all residents to visit our vast park system and enjoy nature and outdoors. For location and amenities at each park, please visit the township website or contact the township office for a printed copy.

## FALL FROLIC

It's time for this year's Fall Frolic. This family orientated community day is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd with a rain date of September 24th. The event will be held at the New Hanover Community Park from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. This event proves to build a sense of community pride as well as celebrating the benefits of living in New Hanover Township. Many of the day's activities are provided by non-profit groups such as the Boy Scouts, Moms Club and emergency personnel to name a few. There is plenty of food, entertainment and games that can be had by all ages. For a schedule of events, please check out the township website.

This event relies solely on community volunteers to ensure its success, so if you are interested in volunteering for the event, please call the Township at 610-323-1008

## NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY SAFETY TIPS AND NEWS

As we approach the fall with the changing of the leaves and them eventually falling to the ground, many residents dispose of those nuisance and ugly lawn additions by compiling them and eliminate them by open burning. We want to remind all residents that there is a burning ordinance for the township. Though it does not completely ban all burning, it does curtail the practice to avoid neighbor conflicts.



If you want to burn you need to ask yourself a few simple questions.

- 1) Is what I am burning strictly dried vegetation?
- 2) Where I am planning to burn, is that at least 50 ft from property lines and any structures including sheds?
- 3) Will my burn last more than 3 hours?
- 4) Will the smoke crashes blow toward any one of my neighbors?
- 5) Am I using a cylindrical container that is equivalent to a 55 gallon barrel?
- 6) Am I doing the burning during the daylight hours?

If you answer NO to any of these questions, then you cannot burn. Failure to comply with these regulations may lead to a fine of \$300 levied by the township Code Enforcement Officer.

From the fire crew of the company, we have taken delivery of a "new" used KME tanker/pumper. The truck is 10 years old and was previously owned by a Chester County fire company that has consolidated with another allowing them to downsize making the truck available. The availability of this "new" truck came at a great time since we were in the process of designing a new tanker with prices coming in at \$297,000. We were able to purchase the "new" truck for half the cost.

Lastly, one of the fire company's big fundraisers is coming up on October 7th. It is our annual comedy night. Last year we sold over 350 tickets and it was a great show. Get your tickets early because we expect them to sell fast. You can stop by at the fire station on any Thursday night until the week of the event to get your \$25 per person ticket.

Fire Prevention week is October 8 - 14, 2006. Remember to practice fire safety all year long. Our open house will be October 12th 6 to 8 PM. Please visit us.

## TRASH CONTAINERS

The Police Department would like to remind residents not to place their trash containers in the street on days of scheduled pick-up. All containers should be placed behind the curb or on the grass behind the street. Trash containers placed in the road make it extremely difficult to maneuver vehicles, especially emergency equipment, thru the street. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.





# THE HARBINGER

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pottstown, PA  
Permit# 190

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## New Hanover Township Board of Supervisors

Martin Dyas  
Chairman

Douglas Muller  
Vice Chairman

Ralph Fluharty  
Treasurer

Andrew Kelly

David P. Brown

Township Manager - Edward C. Wagner

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT QUIZ

1. If the Linerick Generating station emergency sirens sound other than the first Monday of the month at 2:00pm, what would you do?
- A. start calling family and friends on the phone
  - B. get in your car and drive to try to find out what is going on
  - C. turn on the local radio and/or television station to get further instructions
  - D. go outside to see what you can see or hear in the area

Always immediately turn to the local news stations, whether on radio or television, to keep informed as to what is taking place, how serious the event is and exactly what the instructions are to the community. Try to stay home, off of the roads and travelways and keep the phone lines free and open for emergency personnel to be able to function.

2. If you received the instructions from the local news to evacuate as per your local evacuation plan, how would you know where to go or what to do?
- A. listen to the local radio station
  - B. call your friends and neighbors
  - C. drive to your local police departments to find out
  - D. refer to the blue-edged pages in the front of the phone book

Always keep a phone book nearby for reference in an emergency situation. The Linerick Generating Station has a whole section in the front that is noticeable by the blue-edged pages with instructions depending on where you live for the evacuation plans in place.

3. How is New Hanover Township involved and a part of an emergency situation?
- A. through the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in the township building
  - B. through the PA State Police
  - C. through the local ambulance service organizations
  - D. through the area fire companies

New Hanover Township has an adopted Emergency Response Preparedness Plan, headed by the Emergency Management Coordinator who works closely with the County and the Linerick Generation Station. The township's plan has an Emergency Management Committee who opens the EOC and begins the operations in the event of an emergency situation. That volunteer committee made up of several firefighters, township employees and township residents is continually trained in addition to participating in the PECO emergency simulation drill every two years for training.

ANSWERS: 1. C, 2. D, 3. A