



THE **HARBINGER**

FALL 2008

Meeting Times

- Board of Supervisors meets the second and fourth Monday of each month with the exception of the December meeting being scheduled for Dec. 8. Work session meetings begin at 6:30 PM with the regular meeting following at approximately 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 6:30 PM at treatment facility, 2990 Fagleysville Road.
- The Environmental Advisory Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- The Recreation Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

OFFICE HOURS

8:30am - 4:30pm
Monday thru Friday

CONTACT US

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epogany@newhanover-pa.org
email

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Corner
Summer Kitchen Restoration
Student Travel Tips
Public Works
Snow's A'Comin
Ready Notify PA
Safety Seat Inspection
Doggie Park Etiquette
Sassamansville Fire Co.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES: FALL AND WINTER ACTIVITIES



The New Hanover Township Recreation Committee has been busy organizing recreational opportunities for families of New Hanover for the fall and winter seasons of years 2008 and 2009.

The Township's annual **Fall Frolic** is scheduled for September 20, 2008 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm with a rain date of September 21, 2008. Several new attractions are being offered at this year's event and we expect everyone will find something of interest to them. A variety of snack foods and beverages will be available for purchase at a nominal cost. Please be advised that a portion of Kleman Road and Gail Drive will be posted "No Parking" for safety reasons and that a free parking and shuttle service is being provided from the parking lot of the Hope Community Church and will run continuously during the afternoon.

The Township offers a variety of activities all throughout the year. A drop-in program for fall and winter volleyball and basketball is held at Boyertown Junior High School East for adults and Senior High School Students. A Children's after school program is offered at the New Hanover Upper Frederick School for a six week period during January and February each year. Discounted lift tickets for Bear Creek Mountain Resort will be available at the Township Building during ski season. Summer programs include a four week children's recreation program, swim instruction, and golf clinics for both children and adults. For more information on these or any of our activities and programs, please visit the Township's website at www.newhanover-pa.org. The Township is grateful to the organizations and persons whose cooperative efforts make it possible to offer the programs.

The Recreation Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month and is comprised of volunteers who are interested in offering recreational and social activities to the community. Feel free to attend a meeting to offer your comments and suggestions and possibly to consider volunteering to become a committee member.

For more information about the **2008 Fall Frolic** or Recreation Committee, contact Eileen Pogany at 610-323-1008 or epogany@newhanover-pa.org. See you at the **Fall Frolic!** 

MET ED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

If you live in a neighborhood which receives its energy via overhead power lines, you may see contractors hired by Met Ed pruning and clearing tree branches away from power lines. The method to be applied is known as directional pruning which is the accepted industry standard and promoted by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Pruning will remove entire branches and limbs back to the main trunk of the tree and in so doing, future tree growth is directed away from the power lines and re-growth is minimized; branches growing away from the power lines usually are left undisturbed. This method does not impede the tree's natural defense systems and differs from the techniques utilized in the past such as topping or rounding over. Trees directly under or beside power lines which cannot be pruned effectively may be removed as will immature trees within 15 feet of utility poles that have the potential to contact power lines as they grow. Vines growing over equipment will be cut near the ground. EPA approved herbicides may be used by licensed crews required to follow strict guidelines conforming to all state and federal laws.

The Vegetation Management Program helps minimize storm damage and reduce power outages. **FOR YOUR SAFETY, REMEMBER**—downed power lines carry electricity; children and adults need to stay clear of them and anything touching the lines and should be reported immediately. Additional detailed information has been provided to the Township office and is available to anyone during office hours.



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. Children are back in school. Please drive slowly on our roads.

It won't be long before our faithful road crew will be plowing snow again. Please understand that they can only plow the streets. It is unfortunate that while doing that, they may push snow across the front of your freshly shoveled driveway and sidewalk. It happens, it's happened to me. It's just the nature of the beast. Please give our road crew a break.

I hear that the Boyertown Bears soccer teams look good this year. The girls and boys teams have come a long way. I remember the girls' inaugural season in 2001. It was tough, but they seem to have been getting better every year since. Go Bears!

We are still actively seeking to purchase open space in our Township. If you know of any acreage that might be a good candidate for our program, please let our Township Manager know. We would love to preserve as much open land as possible. It's our way of preserving some of the rural character which is valued by our residents.

Enjoy our roads and open spaces. They belong to you.

Board of Supervisors Chairman, *Martin Dyas*



SCHOOL IS IN SESSION! STUDENT TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS

More school buses are traveling throughout the Township; vehicle and student traffic will be heavier in the vicinity of schools. Historically, children are safer traveling in school buses than in any other type of vehicle. The greatest risk for children is during approaching or leaving the bus.

It is suggested that children arrive at their bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. When the bus approaches, the child should be three giant steps or six feet away from the street or curb. Students should not cross the road or enter the bus until the driver says or signals that it is okay; no one should ever walk behind or along side the bus where the driver is not able to see.

Approaching vehicles should prepare to stop when a slowing bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing and always come to a complete stop at least 20 feet away from the bus when the overhead red lights are flashing. Proceed cautiously where children congregate near bus stops.

Obey all school speed zones. A driver moving at 35 mph doubles their chances of killing a pedestrian versus driving at 30 mph.

As always, keep your eyes on the road, never drink and drive and always wear your safety belt.

SUMMER KITCHEN RESTORATION

Restoration of a summer kitchen at the Swamp Creek Park constructed in the 1845 era is taking place through the efforts of volunteers from the Township's Historical Society. Separate summer kitchens were used for food preparation in the 18th and 19th centuries so that unwanted heat did not permeate the homes during the summer months. This year's work included restoration of the chimney, the hearth and flooring. Slated for future reconstruction is a bee-hive bake oven, the shed protecting it, and roofing. The Historical Society hopes to integrate this facility into its educational programs currently centered around the school house that are offered to school children and the public. Feel free to stop by whenever you see volunteers at work there; you may even be inspired to join in local historic preservation. (For more information, please visit www.newhanoverhistorical.org.)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Roadway & Park Improvements

Kurtz Road – converted from a narrow gravel road to an 18-ft wide black top roadway.

Colflesh Road – overlaid with three inches of new paving.

Rosenberry Road – overlay work was completed in August, 2008.

Pleasant Run Park – parking lot has been paved.

Hunters Run Park – tot-lot equipment installed and park is now open to public.

FYI – the Township's cost for black top has increased 36% this year!

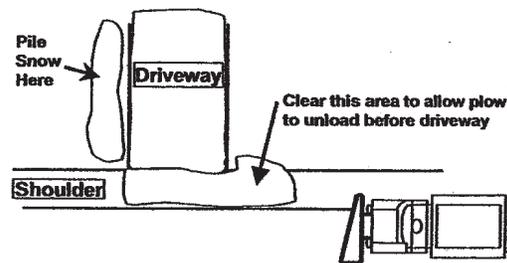
CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Township drop-off site (at the municipal building, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville) anytime up to January 23, 2009. Trees will be collected from the Township site and recycled into mulch.



SNOW'S A'COMIN

A few things to keep in mind regarding snow removal from the roadways: snow plows are designed to roll snow to the shoulder or curbing of the road. If the snow is cleared from the area as it approaches the driveway, the plow will discharge the snow before it gets to the driveway rather than unloading in the driveway. See diagram.



Obey all "No Parking" signs and avoid parking along the street. Vehicles parked in the street during a Snow Emergency are subject to fines and towing at owner's expense. Situate all waste and recycling containers out of the path of the snow plow. DO NOT shovel or discharge snow into the roadway. Snow which melts on the lawn area will help to recharge the ground water supply. Also remember, it is the responsibility of all property owners to clear away any accumulation of snow and ice from a structure where it is liable to fall on a sidewalk, roadway or public way. Sidewalks are to be cleared to provide a path of at least 30 inches in width from snow or ice within 24 hours after the cessation of any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Remember to clear snow away from the front of mailboxes and fire hydrants.

Snow Trivia for New Hanover Township

- The smallest amount of snow in a winter season since 1980 was four inches in the winter season of 1997-1998.
- The largest amount of snow for a winter season was 1995-1996 at 84.5 inches for the season. The largest amount of snow for a given storm was in that winter at 38 inches of snow on January 8, 1996; four days later we received an additional 5 inches of snow.
- Since 1980 New Hanover has averaged approximately 29 inches of snow per season.
- On two occasions our snow plow has paved the way for the ambulance to the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center to transport an injured person for emergency treatment.

WHAT'S NEW AT SASSAMANSVILLE FIRE COMPANY?

Six volunteer firefighters have recently attended and successfully completed a fire fighter training program and an additional six fire fighters have passed the Vehicle Rescue School. There are currently six fire police officers. Mr. Hiram Springer has retired as Fire Police Captain after forty-four years of volunteer service. We are looking to replace our 1984 pumper truck as it is very difficult to locate parts for repairs. The Fire Company would like to thank everyone who supported their spring carnival.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTION

We are pleased to announce that Officer Dekkar Dyas has received training and is certified to evaluate the appropriate child safety seat for your child as determined by the child's weight and also to inspect to determine proper installation in the vehicle. Inspections are conducted on an appointment basis and can be scheduled by calling 610-327-1150.

READY NOTIFY PA

This public emergency preparedness program provides subscribers various means for receiving minute by minute information regarding emergencies and notices such as school closings. Notifications can be received via email, cell phone, pager etc. The website offers comprehensive information regarding natural disasters, terrorism, and fire emergencies and suggestions for an appropriate response for each situation. Subscribers will be asked to choose which types of emergency information they wish to receive. Please visit www.readynotifypa.org to learn more about this valuable resource. Township residents are encouraged to subscribe to this free service.



OUR WEBSITE

The Township staff endeavors to post time-sensitive notices as well as maintain up-to-date information pertinent to the community. We have recently added many application forms which can be downloaded and submitted to the Township office. The Township is also in the process of updating its codified code which will be posted to the internet. The code will provide a convenient means of researching Township regulations and will be searchable by subject matter for ease of use.

DOGGIE (OWNER) PARK ETIQUETTE

New Hanover Township takes pride in providing and maintaining recreational facilities/opportunities for the well being of its residents. Walking/biking trails are used extensively; many times residents are accompanied by their canine friends. We ask that pets be under CONSTANT supervision and control of their owners at all times and that any and all solid excrement be removed from all areas of the park. PLEASE be considerate of others using the parks – no one enjoys stepping in doggie do-do.



THE HARBINGER

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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

RECYCLING

Please remember that you, as a consumer, can make a difference with regard to our current environmental challenges. Most of us are not willing to give up our conveniences, but we can take a longer range view of everything we make, buy and use. Recycling means taking a product or material at the end of its useful life and turning it into a useable raw material to make another product. Most common household products collected by your trash hauler for recycling include aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic, steel and tin cans, and paper. Please help us protect our environment by following the principles as follows:

The Four Basic Principles



Individual consumers can substantially reduce solid waste by following these basic principles:

-  **REDUCE** the amount of trash discarded.
-  **REUSE** containers and products.
-  **RECYCLE** - use recycled materials, and compost.
-  **RESPOND** to the solid waste dilemma by reconsidering waste-producing activities and by expressing preferences for less waste.

CODE ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

ATTIC, BASEMENT OR GARAGE CONVERSIONS –

Adding additional habitable space by finishing an attic, basement or attached garage requires the submittal of a building permit application prior to starting any construction. Failure to obtain the required permits and inspections could result in serious ramifications and costly penalties. These violations are typically discovered during fire and emergency services investigations or when a property is offered for sale and County tax records and Township files cannot validate the improvements.

GARAGE AND YARD SALE REGULATIONS –

Ordinance No. 06-08 was adopted by the Township Supervisors September 11, 2006 providing for reasonable restrictions on yard and garage sales. The ordinance was intended to eliminate perpetual sales and nuisances associated with signage and parking/traffic. The ordinance allows for three sales within any calendar year period and allows for placement of signs two days prior to the date of the sale which are to be removed within twenty-four hours after the sale has ended. Signs are not to exceed two square feet and are not to be attached to utility poles, traffic signs or similar structures nor are they to be placed upon private property without written consent of the property owner. A copy of the entire text of the ordinance is available at the Township office.