

The Harbinger

Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan Considered

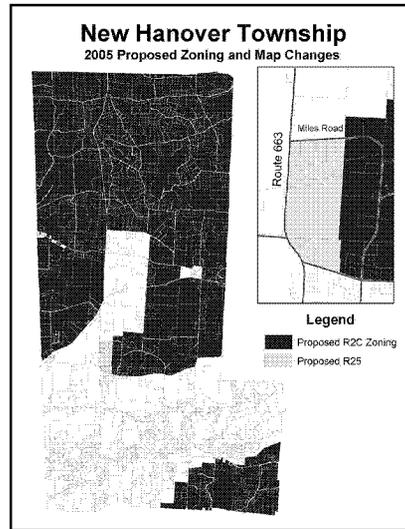
The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission is composed of representatives from eight member municipalities that include New Hanover Township, Douglass Township, Upper Pottsgrove Township, Lower Pottsgrove Township, West Pottsgrove Township, Pottstown Borough, East Coventry Township and North Coventry Township.

The Commission was formed for the purpose of :

- Protecting unique historical, cultural and natural resources
- Promoting economic vitality and quality of life in existing communities
- Implementing growth management techniques
- Preserving open space and agriculture
- Developing transportation choices
- Promoting new economic opportunities and jobs
- Maintaining and improving recreation options

The Commission has recently finalized a draft Comprehensive Plan and will be scheduling public meetings in each of the member municipalities to present the plan for consideration by each municipality and to discuss the recommendations contained in the plan. The New Hanover meeting will be announced at Supervisors and Planning Commission Meetings, will be posted in the Township Lobby and on the Township website once they have been scheduled and advertised.

Prior to considering adoption of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the Board of Supervisors of New Hanover Township will have a public hearing to consider rezoning the R-50 and R-2 zoning districts to a new zoning designation called R-



2C or Residential Conservation District. The new district would provide for conservation subdivisions on lots of 8 acres or greater and is consistent with the recommendations of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

At the same time the Board of Supervisors is also considering rezoning certain specified properties between Miles Road and Swamp Picnic Road from R-50 to R-25.

All affected property owners will receive direct notification of the proposed zoning change and public hearing to review the same and will be encouraged to submit written comments prior to the public hearing for the Board of Supervisors to consider.

All R-50 and R-2 property owners are encouraged to review the information they receive, contact the Township to answer questions, to submit written comments and to attend the public hearing. The Public Hearing date will be posted on the Township website at www.newhanover-pa.org, as soon as it is scheduled. Any action to adopt

Township Defers Decision on Municipal Complex

In December the Board of Supervisor held a public meeting to discuss a Municipal Complex Feasibility Study for Efficiency of Present and Future Uses.

After careful review and consideration the consensus of the Board was that expansion is needed; however, the cost estimates for financing the project as proposed, and the corresponding debt service tax that would be required to pay-off the debt, were beyond what the Board was comfortable approving without further review and attempts to reduce the scope of the project.

No debt service tax millage was adopted in January and the Board of Supervisors deferred any decision on implementing the recommendations of the Feasibility Study.

The study determined that the Police Department, Public Works Department and Administration Department facilities are significantly undersized for current operational needs as well as future needs as anticipated through 2015.

Three Concept Plans for expansion

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Chairman's Corner

It looks like the rainy season of spring is upon us again. The flowers are coming up and the buds are forming on the trees. This is the best time of the year, especially after a long cold winter.

C. Raymond Batchelder and the road crew did a great job of maintaining our roads during this past winter. The many storms kept the guys plowing snow into the wee hours of the morning. They worked hard to keep our roads clear, even when neighboring townships couldn't keep up with the work load. Congratulations to Ray and the crew!

The New Hanover Historical Society did a fantastic job of restoring the schoolhouse at Swamp Creek Park. They worked hard, not only to bring the schoolhouse back into shape, but they restored it as historically correct as possible. The dedication should be fun and memorable. Come on out and see it for your-

self. The dedication is May 1st at 2:00 PM at the schoolhouse on Reifsnyder Road.

We have a new police officer on the New Hanover force. Police Chief Michael Dykie hired Dekkar Dyas on a part-time basis as our 9th officer. Dekkar graduated from Penn State University last May with a degree in Psychology and was the valedictorian of his class at the Montgomery County Police Academy. Dekkar is not new to the township, he worked for the road crew for several summers and he is Corinne and my son. He has joined a talented and highly trained force here in New Hanover. When you see him or any of our officers, give them a wave or smile and let them know that they are appreciated.

Our neighbor, Upper Pottsgrove Township, has requested that New Hanover Fire Company be their primary source for fire protection and we have signed a service agree-

ment with them. Upper Pottsgrove chose our fire company because of its stellar reputation throughout the county. This is a tribute to Fire Chief Bill Moyer and his firefighters and fire police. We have been assured that responding to calls in Upper Pottsgrove will not interfere with protection in New Hanover.

Our sewer department has been working hard as well. Al Denardo and his crew are striving to maintain our wastewater treatment plant and continue to upgrade as we continue to add more and more lines to the plant.

Our township manager, Anne Klepfer, along with her staff, have been doing a fine job to stay on top of everything to ensure that all is running smoothly. We are blessed to have such talent working in our municipal building.

Sincerely,

Township Phone Numbers

Administrative Office

610-323-1008 Tel.
610-323-5173 Fax
Hours 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Code Enforcement Office

610-327-2535

Hours

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sewer Administrator

610-326-6203
Hours 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Emergency –911

Police Department

(non emergency)
610-327-1441
215-679-5311

New Hanover & Sassamansville Fire Co.

610-323-2424
215-679-5311

EMAIL & Website

epogany@newhanover-pa.org

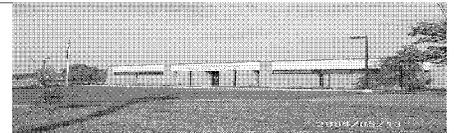
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were considered. Each Concept Plan consisted of three components: 1) Renovation of existing building into a Public Safety Building; 2) construction of a new Administration Building on adjacent ground; and 3) Expansion of the Public Works Garage and Salt Storage facilities. The estimated costs projection for the preferred concept including furnishings were as follows:

- New Municipal Bldg. \$1,530,000
- Public Safety Bldg.
Renovations & Const. \$1,250,000
- Public Works Exp. \$ 625,000
- Sitework \$ 350,000
- Sub-Total \$3,755,000

The Total amount to be financed would have needed to be \$4,520,000.00 to include estimated architect and engineering fees (\$280,000), contingency (\$300,000), escalation of cost from time of estimate to time of construction (\$85,000) and financing costs (\$100,000).

The financing options considered by the Board would have resulted in a debt service tax being added to the total real estate millage. The additional millage would have



been implemented gradually during the term of the loan and would have maximized at a .53 mill increase in year five of the borrowing before reducing annually back down to pre-debt rates over the remaining 15 years of the borrowing.

The need for expansion remains a pressing issue. Township staff and officials will spend the remainder of 2005 reviewing the scope and considering other alternatives in an effort to reduce the amount of money that would need to be financed and funded with a debt service tax.

The concepts and financing options presented at the December Public Hearing are available for public review. The public is invited to share comments and opinions on this matter and can either send them to the attention of Anne Klepfer, Township Manager, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville, PA 19525 or email them to aklepfer@newhanover-pa.org.

Additional public hearings will be held before any project approvals are considered by the

Events CALENDAR

April 13, 2005

Land Use Assumptions Report Public Hearing

When: 6:30 PM

Where: New Hanover Twp.

Bld.

2943 N. Charlotte

Street.

The Township Act 209 Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on April 13, 2005 for the purpose of reviewing the final draft Land Use Assumption Report. The report calculates out future growth based on development trends and local ordinances and is a requirement for preparation of a Transportation Capital Improvement Plan.

May 1, 2005

School House Dedication

When: 2:00 PM

**Where: Swamp Creek Park
Reifsnnyder Road**

The New Hanover Township Historical Society is dedicating the recently restored Swamp Creek School. Come enjoy a day at school as it might have been in 1890!

June Session – Register in May

August Session – Register in July

Summer Swim Lessons

When: Hourly 10 AM – 1 PM

Where: Camp Laughing Waters

Registration for this popular Township program begins in May for the June Session

and in July for the August Session. Please make a note to register in May or July for the 2005 sessions. This program is provided for New Hanover Township and Upper Frederick Township residents as part of the New Hanover Township Recreation Program. The program is administered by The Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania at Camp Laughing Waters off of Hildebeidel Road in New Hanover Township.

The program includes ten (10) classes with 45 minutes of instruction and 15 minutes of free swim time in the pool. More information will be posted on the Township website as it becomes available in the near future.

June 4, 2005

Phillies Game Bus Trip

When: 4:30 PM Sharp

**Where: Departs from the New
Hanover Twp. Building
Parking Lot at 2943 N.
Charlotte Street.**

The Township Recreation Committee has organized its second annual Philadelphia Phillies Game Bus Trip. The Phillies play the Arizona Diamondbacks on June 4th. Tickets are on sale at the Township building on a first come, first serve basis at a cost of \$36.00 per ticket. Price includes bus transportation and admission to the game. The tickets sold out quickly last year, so reserve early!

Saturday, May 14th, 2005

Household Hazardous Waste And Computer Col- lection Program

When: 9 AM– 3:00 PM

Where: Green Lane Park

Deep Creek Tennis Court Parking Lot

For more information about what household hazardous waste and computer equipment will be accepted please call 610-278-3618 or access www.wsaemc.org and click on the Recycling and HHW links.

1) June 11, 2004

2) June 18, 2004

2005 Rabies Clinics

When: 9:00 AM-11 AM

Where:

**1) Collegeville Community
Park**

4th & Park Ave

**2) Roth Park Pavilion , 312
Alumni Ave., Harleysville**

The Montgomery County Health Department conducts annual Rabies Clinics. All animals must be leashed or in an approved carrier. Dogs, cats and ferrets will be seen. The cost is \$8.00 per shot for a 3-year shot.

September 24, 2005

Rain date: September 25, 2005

Fall Frolic

When: 1 PM– 5:00 PM

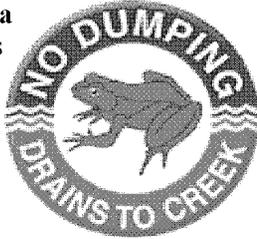
**Where: New Hanover Twp.
Community Park at**

2766 Gail Dr.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Fall Frolic on Saturday, September 24, 2005 with a rain date of September 25th. The event will once again take place at the New Hanover Township Community Park.

When It Rains, It

Did you see this message, or a similar one, near a storm drain? It is a reminder to keep pollutants off streets, drive-ways and side-walks and out of storm drains.



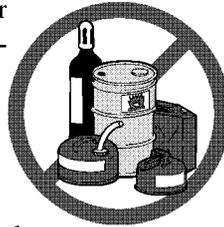
What is a storm drain? It is the grated openings in the street that collect water from rain and melting snow to minimize street flooding. Rainwater often carries street debris such as trash, leaves, grass clippings, pet waste, paint, antifreeze and used motor oil cans and end up in the storm drains. Please dispose of these items properly so they don't end up in the stormwater system

What is the problem? Have you ever wondered where water goes after it "disappears" into a storm drain? Storm water is usually not treated at a wastewater plant, but is discharged directly into rivers,

lakes, or wetlands through outfall pipes. Runoff carries contaminant and debris picked up along the way, polluting creeks, rivers, lakes and streams. It can also contaminate ground water and drinking water supplies. One quart of motor oil can ruin the quality of 250,000 gallons of water.

You can make a difference.

- ◆ Service your car regularly to prevent oils and other fluids from leaking onto the pavement so they don't wash into the drains.
- ◆ Do not use the storm drain to dispose of oil, antifreeze, or other materials. Store used oil and antifreeze in a sealed, labeled container and take it to a retail outlet that recycles oil. Used oil



can also be brought to the Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites.

- ◆ Use fertilizer and pesticides according to the directions.
- ◆ Avoid over fertilizing. Leave grass clippings and leaves on your lawn or in your garden to create natural fertilizer. **DO NOT DUMP GRASS CLIPPINGS NEAR STORM DRAINS OR IN DRAINAGE SWALES!**
- ◆ Dispose of pet waste by flushing it down the toilet or composting it.
- ◆ Choose water-based paints and wash brushes in your sink with water. Reuse and recycle paint thinner, which is a hazardous material. Do not pour paint thinner down your drain or into a storm drain. Dispose of paint thinner at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites.

By Your AUTHORITY

The weather forecast is calling for RAIN – again. Rain has a serious affect on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which in turn has an affect on you, the ratepayer.

Between March 20th and March 29th, the rainfall at the Plant was just over 3". We received .4 inches on March 27th and 1.82 inches on the 28th. To illustrate how that affects the plant, you can look at the gallons

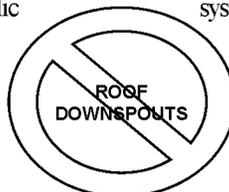
of water that we treated. On a normal day, the Treatment Plant treats an average of 400,000 gallons. On Monday March 28th, we treated over 2 million gallons of water, 5 times our average. So, by now you're asking "Yeah, so what? What do I care?"

Here's the answer. It costs the Authority around .007 cents to treat 1 gallon of water. That means that on Monday the 28th, we paid \$11,200 to treat clean rain water that entered into the system through *Inflow and*

Infiltration, known in the Industry as "I & I". Broken down amongst our approximate 1800 customers, that equals a cost of around \$6.20 to every rate payer. Multiplied by every time we have a heavy rain, this adds up to a significant cost.

The Authority has made I & I a top priority and is working towards reducing storm water inflow through manholes and mains. However, the majority of infiltration is due to private laterals and illegal connections. Please remember that state regulations prohibit clean water being discharged into the sanitary sewer system. This means no sump pumps, rain gutters or swimming pool water should be directed into the public system.

Some other contributing factors are broken



laterals, missing vent caps, and tree roots. As a homeowner, you can control many of these factors. If your vent is missing a cap, please have it repaired. When planting trees, remember to plant them away from easements and your private lateral. Tree roots love moisture and they actually grow towards the pipe and can puncture or crack the lines causing potential blockages and leaks.



Everyone working together can help reduce cost for all. You as a property owner and ratepayer have a responsibility to yourselves and others to help control costs. Should you have any questions or comments, the Sewer Authority is here to help. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Administrator at 610-326-6203. Even though a gallon only cost .007 of a cent to treat, multiplied by millions, this cost escalates. Help do your part to reduce costs as we head into the rainy seasons.

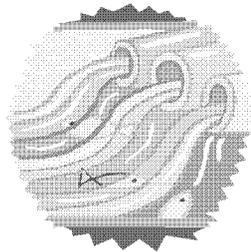
News AROUND TOWN

United States Census

The U S Census Bureau is conducting a short form census in 2010 and is mailing survey forms to residents throughout the country to compile their information. We ask that you cooperate in completing and returning the forms as soon as possible as a response to the survey is mandated by the United States Census Bureau. To learn more about the U S Census Bureau you may visit their website at www.census.gov/acs/www.

Stormwater Management Program

Under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, the Township must develop and implement a stormwater management program to manage the official Municipal Storm Sewer System.

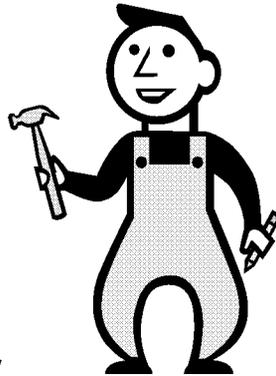


The purpose of the program is to prevent, detect and eliminate stormwater pollutants before the streams and

waterways in the watershed become degraded. Many of the “Best Management Practices” that the Department of Environmental Protection mandates the Township implement will also lead to increased groundwater recharge and will contribute towards the goal of lessening flooding in the drainage basin.

Public Participation and Community Outreach is mandated. The target audience for the Township public education program includes residents, business, schools, developer and public employees.

The Township is forming a steering committee to assist the Township with implementing the program requirements and satisfying its permit. The Township invites anyone, adults or students, interested in serving on the committee or assisting the Township to contact the Township Manager. Many of the requirements of the program would satisfy community service project requirements and will provide a quality experience for college bound students.



Helpful Hints For Hiring a Contractor

From time to time the Township receives complaints from homeowners who hired a contractor to do work for them and didn't get what they thought they paid for. Some of the complaints are criminal in nature and are referred to the Police Department for investigation. The majority, however, are simply the result of unscrupulous and poor quality contractors and there is not much recourse at the Township level.

When hiring a contractor please consider the following tips:

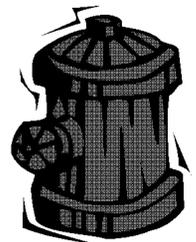
- **Always get multiple quotes for completing the job.**
- **Always ask for and check references.**
- **Always check with the Better Business Bureau to see if any previous complaints have been filed.**
- **Always check with the Township whether a permit is needed and be familiar with what inspections are required.**

- **Always verify that the contractor has liability insurance.**
- **Always verify that if the contractor has workers compensation insurance if he/she has people working with/for them.**
- **Always ask for a signed contract with specified completion dates.**
- **Make sure the contract has a payment schedule and specifies what needs to be completed and inspected prior to each payment.**
- **Never pay in advance of any work.**

Insurance Services Organization Rating

The New Hanover Township Fire Company took the initiative to start a process that will have a positive financial impact on many residents and business owners of New Hanover Township.

The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) agreed to reevaluate the level of fire suppression and planning provided in New Hanover Township in both the public water service area and the private well service areas. This effort has taken ten (10) years of research and planning.



The New Hanover Township Fire Company members participated in and put a tremendous amount of effort and coordination into a portion of the on-site review during the fall of 2004. The Township is now waiting for the final report from ISO. We expect that basic fire insurance rates will be reduced, with a corresponding decrease in premiums paid by the Township and residents and business owners in New Hanover Township.

The members of the Fire Company should be applauded for their hard work and efforts to improve fire protection



New Hanover Township
2943 North Charlotte Street
Gilbertsville, PA 19525-9718

PRESORTED
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

New Hanover Township
Board of Supervisors

Martin Dyas

Robert Petro

Andrew Kelly

Ralph Fluharty

Douglas Muller

Mail to Current Resident or:

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Recreation Committee Activity Planning Underway for Summer and Fall

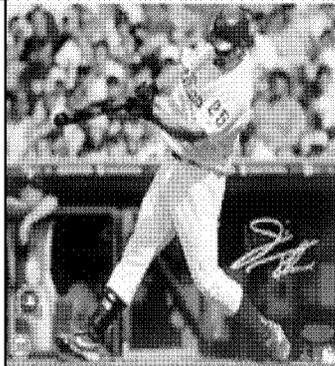
The winter recreation programs are concluding with complimentary reviews. The Recreation Committee is busy planning the summer programs in the Township Community Park as well as swimming lessons to be conducted at the Girl Scout Camp. Please continue to check the Township's website at www.newhanover-pa.org for information about registration.



In addition to the June fourth bus trip to the Phillies game, Phillies vs. Arizona, the Committee is also considering a second bus trip; possibly to New York City, Washington D.C. or to one of the shore points. Please forward any preferences or suggestions you might have for a trip.

As mentioned on the Events Calendar, the Annual Fall Frolic is being planned for September 24th with a rain date of September 25th. New entertainers are being added to the programming and this year's event is expected to be bigger than prior years.

Also tentative plans are being discussed for a holiday activity involving a property lighting/decorating contest and tour which will conclude with refreshments at the school house property restored by the Historical Society.



Take Me Out to The Ball Park...

Meet us at the New Hanover Township Municipal Building on Saturday, June 4th at 4:30 PM sharp, and the New Hanover Township Recreation Committee will take you on a bus trip to see our beloved Phillies play the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Tickets for the 2nd Annual Philadelphia Phillies Bus Trip must be pre-purchased at the New Hanover Township Municipal Building, 2943 N. Charlotte Street, Gilbertsville, PA 19525. The tickets cost \$36.00 and include entry into the game and transportation to and from the stadium to New Hanover Township. Tickets are being sold on a first come, first serve basis. Please buy your tickets now!

For more information please contact Eileen Pogany at 610-323-1008 or at epo-

