



THE **HARBINGER**

S U M M E R - F A L L 2 0 0 9

Meeting Times

- Board of Supervisors' meeting schedule - Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 6:30pm work sessions followed by the regular meeting at approx. 7:00pm. One meeting is held in December on Dec. 14th
- The Planning Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 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.
- Meetings are held in the municipal building, 2943 N. Charlotte St., Gilbertsville with the exception of Sewer Authority as noted above.

OFFICE HOURS

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

CONTACT US

610.323.1008
phone
610.323.5173
fax
epogany@newhanover-pa.org
email
www.newhanover-pa.org
website

NON-EMERGENCY POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

215.679.4131
610.327.1150

COMMUNITY ASSISTS IN AIDING RESIDENTS

The economic downturn has affected many Americans in many ways. Business closures and job losses and/or cut-back in hours have affected nearly everyone in some way. Construction of new homes in New Hanover Township has slowed to nearly a crawl. Residents of the Kingston Hill and Hawthorne developments have been plagued with circumstances related to the developer's filing for bankruptcy. To add to the conditions of an unfinished development, unscrupulous persons have been using the abandoned properties as a place to dump unwanted trash. Along with being unsightly, the debris created a health hazard harboring vermin and providing a breeding place for mosquitoes. Affected residents contacted Township Manager, Edward Wagner, who joined in a cooperative effort between the residents, the Township Public Works Department, inmates of Montgomery County Correctional Facility, H&F Tire Service, Firestone Complete Auto Care, and Pep Boys Auto of Pottstown to collect and dispose of approximately 400 used tires.

NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE



The Township's website is currently being redesigned in order to provide an attractive, informative and user friendly format. The website is updated frequently with special, time sensitive notices posted on the front page. It offers interesting and valuable information regarding the community including descriptions and functions of local government and various committees and commissions, parks and recreational facilities and programs, ordinances and regulations. Permit application forms can be downloaded, completed and submitted at the Township office. A link to the township's codified code of ordinances is expected to be provided shortly.

ARE YOU A CONSIDERATE/RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER ?

Barking should be controlled day and night so as not to disturb others. Pets are to be confined within an owner's property. When exercising a pet on public property, they should be leashed, or controlled by voice command at all times so as not to disturb, intimidate or threaten other people or property. Pets should not be permitted to urinate or defecate on neighbors or other private or public property; any waste matter should be picked up immediately and properly disposed of. Invisible fences do not currently require a Township permit but must be installed outside the legal right-of-way of the roadways.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEARS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Organized in the year 2000, the New Hanover Township Historical Society is noting the approach of their 10th year of collecting and preserving the history and heritage of the New Hanover region.

The first project they tackled was the restoration of the Swamp Creek Schoolhouse adjacent to the popular Swamp Creek Park. This now serves as the society headquarters and meeting place and is a field trip destination for school groups where children can experience 19th century school life.

Additionally, the society creates the "Historian" column in the Community Connection newspaper. These columns document and record all manner of topics related to the early folk-life of the Township and have been collected in three volumes entitled Swamp, New Hanover. Visit our website www.newhanoverhistorical.org.

Finally, with the cooperation of the Township, the society has begun the meticulous restoration of the 1850 Dengler summer kitchen on the grounds of the Swamp Creek Park. This building is the last remaining structure of a 19th century farm. This is a true restoration using only period materials. For example, period window frames were recreated from salvaged chestnut using mortise-tenon and peg construction and fitted with salvaged, period sashes.

Weather permitting, Fridays are the summer kitchen work day, so if you are walking at the park, stop by and say hello. For society information call 610-326-4165.



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I hope you enjoyed your summer.

We have worked on purchasing two properties with open space funds this year. Our newest acquisition is the Hickory Park Campground, which was finalized on July 31, 2009. Our committees are busily making plans for its use.

Our road crew was very busy paving roads this summer, including Moyer Road and part of New Hanover Square Road. As always, they do a fine job all year long, keeping our roads clear and safe.

The Board of Supervisors chose not to accept the settlement agreement from Gibraltar Rock which would have increased the size of the proposed quarry significantly. Therefore, the quarry hearings are continuing and we will continue to litigate the matter. We hope that this was the right decision in the long run.

Many of our residents and potential residents are having some tough times with the collapse of TH Properties. Our hearts go out to those caught up in the turmoil and we hope that things work out for all involved and the developments are completed soon.

The supervisors are looking hard at our 2009 budget right now. With the near halt of all building in the township, we are not bringing in near as much capital as we had anticipated. We are looking critically at the second half of this year's expenditures. Some adjustments may have to be made. We will do our best to balance everything out by the end of the year. We will have quite a challenge working on the 2010 budget.

If you haven't already done so, go and visit the township's restored schoolhouse on Reifsnnyder Road. Our July Board of Supervisor's meetings are held there each year. Attending this meeting would be a great time for you to come out and see the brilliant job the Historical Society has done with the building.

Please enjoy our roads and open spaces. They belong to you.

Your Chairman, Martin Dyas

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 construction. Failure to obtain the required permits and inspections could result in serious ramifications and costly penalties. Violations are typically discovered during fire and emergency service 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 –

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. Signs are not to exceed two square feet and are not to be attached to utility poles, traffic signs or similar structures. Signs are to be removed within twenty-four hours after the sale has ended.

HICKORY PARK

The Township has been successful in adding the well known Hickory Park property located at the intersection of Big Road and Rt. 663 to its list of park properties. The property had been cited for various health and safety violations, including illicit discharge of wastewater into the Swamp Creek, under the prior ownership. The park will require a great deal of maintenance to bring it into a condition suitable and safe for use by Township residents. Swimming pool and structural soundness studies will be carried out prior to making the park available for resident rentals. Amenities include picnic pavilions, baseball diamonds, volleyball court, areas suitable for setting up outdoor games and activities, possibility of a swimming pool and bath house at some time in the future, snack shop, house trailer and access to the Swamp Creek for recreational purposes. The property does not include the adjacent restaurant which is situated on a separate parcel of property.

Upcoming Recreation Programs

FROLIC 2009

Planning is well underway for NHT's annual community day, Fall Frolic. The event is scheduled to be held Saturday, September 19th, from 1-5 PM at the Township's Community Park; a rain date is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th. Plans are being made to offer a variety of activities for an afternoon of family fun. This year's music will be provided by ATI Entertainment and a climbing wall will be among the added attractions. Other attractions include face painting, frisbee golf tournament, music, crafts, games, special entertainers and great food. Volunteers are needed; persons willing to dedicate a few hours or an afternoon to assist with the activities of the day are invited to call the Township office and will be assigned to an activity of their preference. Mark your calendars now and be sure to attend the Frolic!

FRISBEE GOLF

Looking for a low impact outdoor game to challenge your skills?? Consider learning about Frisbee golf at the Township's Community Park. A volunteer will be on hand during the Fall Frolic to explain the game and demonstrate the skills. Information regarding the game and the Township's course can be found at <http://www.pdga.com/course-details?id=2839>

BUS TRIPS

New Hanover, Limerick and Lower Pottsgrove Township's Recreation Departments have joined together to offer a series of bus trips from our communities. Tentative plans are being made to offer a trip to New York City for the American Girl Doll Day or On Your Own in New York on October 17th, Winery and Dinner at the Smithville Inn in November, and Longwood Gardens with dinner on December 12th. Please check the Township's website for details as they become available or contact the Township office.



PARKS & RECREATION

The Township Supervisors have been actively pursuing and acquiring open space and park properties for the welfare and enjoyment of the residents of the community. They are please to announce the addition of Hickory Park and the likely addition of the Parestis Property. Acquisitions have been made possible by expenditures of Township funds, donations of open space required of developers when subdividing property, and awarding of County Open Space Funds, the .15% earned income tax designated for open space and grant monies. Realizing the opportunities for acquiring valuable parcels occurs infrequently, a concerted effort, over a period of time, has been made to evaluate the benefits to the community. Improvements and enhancements are added to the sites on an as needed and on-going basis. The parks are open to the public from dawn to dusk. We ask that you familiarize yourself with the park rules while enjoying the facility and that you report any suspicious behaviors/actions immediately to our Police Department whose officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Park reservations can be made by filing an application at the Township office. Township parks and their amenities are as follows:

New Hanover Community Park – located at 2766 Gail Drive. This park is approximately 12 acres in area with an annexed area of an additional 16.6 acres and was the first park acquired by the township. The park has a paved (approx. ½ mile) walking/jogging trail around its perimeter. The park has been developed through the efforts of the volunteers, Township staff, and paid independent contractors. Donations of time, materials and grant monies have helped make the improvements possible. The most recent improvements include the roller/deck hockey rink, indoor public restroom and the pavilion. Other improvements include a basketball court, softball field, tot lot, Frisbee golf course, improvements to the community building and paved parking and driveway access striped for walking/jogging and biking.

Swamp Creek Park – this park encompasses approximately 34.3 acres and is located at 3179 Reifsnnyder Road. The park has a paved one-mile walking/jogging trail around its perimeter with rest stations at several points along the way. The grassy area of the park is groomed at all times and frequently is enjoyed by model airplane flyers. Improvements including a pavilion have been made to the site by the Spring Meadow Radio control Modelers. Anyone wishing to fly model airplanes at this site can obtain a permit at the Township office.

Pleasant Run Park – is located at 600 Schultz Road and is a passive recreation area containing 11.4 acres of grassy maintained open space, a parking area and a pond. The area surrounding the pond was recently landscaped and fishing, picnicking, and outdoor sports activities are permitted at this site.

Deep Creek Nature Center – is located along Pleasant Run Road and is a passive recreation site boasting a variety of natural species of vegetation, birds, butterflies and wildlife. Future plan for the site include additional walking trails and boardwalks with signage explaining the natural features being observed. Nature walks, bird sighting, and picnicking are appropriate activities for this area.

Layfield Park – is located along Dotterer Road and can also be accessed from Swamp Pike. The park is currently in a passive natural state. A master plan for the site has been developed and approved and will be implemented at some point in the future and includes meadowlands, wildlife lookouts, trails, a picnic plaza, pavilion, playground, restrooms, soccer fields, parking lots, bocce court, volleyball court, and basketball courts.

Middle Creek Park/Athletic Fields – adjoins the YMCA facility and is located along Dotterer Road. The site contains two soccer fields maintained by the Boyertown Soccer club and a softball field maintained by the Pine Forge Athletic Association which are available to the public when the fields are not in use by the clubs. Picnic tables and benches are provided at the site for the comfort of spectators.

Parestis Property – 2023 Little Road this 21 acre pristine site is currently being considered for purchase under the Township's Open Space Plan. The site may offer low impact recreational activities and will primarily be maintained in its natural state ideal for folks who enjoy relaxing in a quiet setting.

Hickory Park - This 20.6 acre parks was recently approved for purchase under the Montgomery County Open Space Program. The Township will be developing a master plan for park improvements incorporating many of the existing amenities. The Swamp Creek borders the west boundary of the park and the park is likely to be the site of the Township's annual Fall Frolic in future years.

Windlestrae Athletic Fields – Chalet Road. – This 16.9 acre park is currently being developed as a cooperative effort between the Township, Gambone Bros.-developer of the Windlestrae development, and several athletic associations. Upon completion will offer fields suitable for soccer, football, lacrosse etc. and will house an indoor facility for wrestling and other suitable activities. Lighting will be provided for evening activities. Indoor restroom facilities and a concession building will be located on site.

Hunters Run Park – the 20.9 acre tract has recently been improved to include a modular playground structure, park benches, parking area, soccer field, open areas for recreation and improved driveway access. The park can be accessed from Charles Drive or from Fairbrook Drive.

Rosenberry Road Open Space – 5.5 acres along Rosenberry Road of undeveloped passive open space.

Kurtz Road Open Space – 9.8 acres of undeveloped wooded property.

Swamp Pike at Dotterer Road - 3 acre of land which will be dedicated to the Township subsequent to the realignment of the roadway with Swamp Picnic Road.



THE HARBINGER

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

New Hanover Township
2943 N. Charlotte Street
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Pottstown, PA
Permit# 190

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



DRIVE RESPONSIBLY

Reminder from our Police Department

State Law requires that headlights be turned on whenever windshield wipers are needed.

Visibility decreases during rain and foggy weather.



TOWNSHIP PARKS			Facilities														Activities									
			Pavilion	Playground	Swimming Pool	Gardens	Roller Hockey	Picnic Tables	Restrooms	Parking	Dog friendly	Trails	Scenic	Baseball	Soccer	Basketball	Volleyball	Disc Golf	Bird Watching	Model Airplane Flying	Fishing	Biking	Lacrosse	Football		
NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP																										
Deep Creek Nature Center	Pleasant Run Road	11.5																								
Hickory Park Open Space	2140 Big Road	20.6	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•							•			
Hunters Run Open Space	Access from Charles Dr.	20.9		•																						
Kurtz Road Open Space	Kurtz Road	9.8				•																				
Layfield Park	Middle Creek Road	28.3																						•		
Middle Creek Park	Dotterer Rd. (rear of YMCA)	9.5																								
New Hanover Community Park	2766 Gail Drive	28.6	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•					•				
Parestis Open Space	2023 Little Road	21																								
Pleasant Run Park	Schultz Road	11.4					•																	•		
Rosenberry Road Open Space	Rosenberry Road	5.5																								
Swamp Creek Park	3179 Reifsnnyder Road	34.3	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•									•			
Swamp Pike at Dotterer Road	Dotterer Road	3																								
Windlestrae Athletic Fields	Chalet Road	16.9																						•		
	Total Acreage	221.3																								