



RAPHO REPORTER

Fall & Winter 2022

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EMS Crisis Calls for Local Solution

Municipalities in Pennsylvania are responsible for many things – parks and recreation facilities, police services, snow removal and stormwater management to name a few. But did you know that municipalities are also required by state law to ensure the provision of emergency medical services? They are. And EMS services in our community, and our region, are in jeopardy.

The Local EMS Crisis

EMS services in our community are provided by Northwest EMS, a non-profit organization. Northwest EMS was recognized in 2020 as the Pennsylvania EMS Agency of the Year, awarded by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Unfortunately, however, the organization's future is at risk. Why? Insufficient revenue from subscriptions, municipal contributions and insurance reimbursements, combined with rising costs.

Northwest EMS has operated at a deficit for the past six years. These deficits have been covered by proceeds from the organization's investments, but those investments continue to decline. The expected deficit for 2022 is over \$500,000. Unless this crisis is addressed, Northwest EMS will be insolvent in a few years.

Northwest EMS is not alone. This is a state-wide crisis and other areas of the state are faced with losing essential emergency services, or facing reductions in service and long wait times, for what could be life-or-death situations.

The Local Solution

Municipal leaders in the region and Northwest EMS' Board of Directors have been meeting since 2018 to confront this crisis. At the start of 2021, a committee of municipal leaders and Northwest EMS leaders began studying the situation in earnest and exploring alternatives.

The committee is proposing the creation of a regional Emergency Services Authority to address the challenges that jeopardize essential emergency services in our community and fulfill the statutory requirement for municipalities to provide EMS services with more fiscal stability. As a collaboration among municipalities, the Authority would provide emergency medical services and EMS administrative support to municipalities throughout its service area. It is believed to be the best step forward, and the most fiscally responsible option, to ensure that EMS services continue to be available, potentially saving your life or the life of your loved one.

Community Funded

As proposed, the authority creates an opportunity to replace municipal contributions and membership contributions with a reasonable and uniform annual fee to property owners, on par with today's Northwest EMS subscription rates.

The annual fee is estimated to be between \$70-\$85 per residential housing unit (or \$6-\$7 per month). Separate tiers would be set for commercial and institutional properties.

Founding municipalities would each have
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October 9-15 is National Fire Prevention Week

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA) has announced “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape™” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, which takes place October 9-15. This theme reinforces the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly. In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation’s longest-running public health observance on record.

“This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign capitalizes on its milestone anniversary, celebrating all we’ve accomplished in reducing the public’s risk to fire over the past hundred years,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of the NFPA Outreach and Advocacy division. “At the same time, the theme, ‘Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape,’ addresses challenges that remain.”

The theme “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape” promotes potentially life-saving messages that can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly ensures that everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and uses that time wisely.

Following are key messages behind this year’s theme:

- Make sure your home escape plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, its 100th anniversary, and this year’s theme, “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape,” visit www.nfpa.org/fpw.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS



Don’t forget to turn back your clocks one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 5, 2022 as Daylight Savings Time ends.

This is also a good time to replace the batteries in your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

SEPTIC PUMPING

A reminder that property owners in the **Elm Tree I Voting District** are due to have their septic systems inspected/pumped in this calendar year. If you have not already submitted a report, a postcard will be sent to your home as a reminder to hire a hauler, have the work completed, and submit the **white copy** of the Septic Report Form to the Township Office by December 31, 2022.



While you may periodically receive septic pumping notices or solicitations from septic haulers seeking your business, official reminders come once every four years from the Township. There is no harm in having your tank pumped more frequently than every four years, but you will still need to have it pumped on the year your district is due.

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

Trick or Treat Night is Monday, **October 31, 2022** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



MEETING DATES AND TIMES

Board of Supervisors—1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
BOS Work Session—6:00 p.m. Thurs. preceding 1st BOS meeting after Planning Commission meeting
Planning Commission — 1st Mon. at 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Hearing Board— 1st Tues. at 7:00 p.m.

EMS IN CRISIS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

representation on the Authority's Board, which once incorporated will be responsible for determining the actual fees. The Authority would advertise and hold public hearings to allow the community to have a voice on proposed services and rates. The community will then continue to have a voice in the Authority, even after it is formed.

EMS Services You'll Receive

What would you receive from the regional Emergency Services Authority?

Readiness to answer calls if emergency medical services are needed

No residual bills for EMS services if your insurance pays toward an ambulance bill

50% off your ambulance bill if you have no insurance or if your entire bill goes toward your insurance deductible

The regional Emergency Services Authority would become the new entity to provide EMS in our community. The Authority would consist of the same outstanding people and deliver the same outstanding service for which Northwest EMS is known.

Learn More and Support EMS

Municipalities that have passed resolutions indicating interest in exploring and possibly joining the regional Emergency Services Authority are Clay Township, Conewago Township, Conoy Township, East Donegal Township, Elizabethtown Borough, Elizabeth Township, Manheim Borough, Marietta Borough, Mount Joy Township, Penn Township, Rapho Township and West Donegal Township. While the EMS crisis and proposed regional Emergency Services Authority has been discussed at numerous public meetings and reported in local news media, you are encouraged to learn more by visiting SavingEMSforNWLancaster.org. There you'll find frequently asked questions and an anticipated timeline.

Based on the current timeline for the proposed Authority, the earliest EMS services would transition from Northwest EMS to the new Authority is 2024. Northwest EMS will continue to provide EMS services to our community in 2023 and will be conducting its annual subscription campaign this fall to help fund its operations for the year. Please watch your mailbox for the Northwest EMS subscription mailer and consider subscribing for 2023.

EMS is an essential public service. It is essential that, as a community, we ensure that emergency services continue to be ready and available to answer the call.

Rapho Township's elected supervisors need to decide whether to join the authority, contact with the authority for EMS coverage or find another EMS provider capable of providing EMS coverage by November 17.

A MESSAGE FROM NWEMS

Northwest EMS, Inc. is proud to serve the community with emergency ambulance service! We believe in **Serving Our Community - One Patient at a Time**, giving each patient the kind of care and treatment we would want for our own loved ones. Over the next few weeks, our 2023 Subscription Memberships letters will be received throughout all the communities we serve. Watch for our mailing and please consider become a Subscribed Member! Your subscription membership contribution is tax-deductible and it is a vital part of helping us meet our operating budget. As a Subscribed Member, we are able to reduce much of the out-of-pocket costs you may incur from a 911 ambulance call, and in many cases, we can adjust the unpaid balance to \$0.00 (after your insurance pays their portion).

To learn more or to ask questions, please contact our Community Outreach Manager, Lori Shenk, at 717-371-8282 or email lshenk@nwems86.org.

PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER

- Make sure your heat source is ready.
- Prepare snow shovels or snow blower.
- Snow must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours once precipitation has ceased and may not be thrown into the street.



RAPHO TOWNSHIP

971 N. COLEBROOK ROAD
 MANHEIM, PA 17545-9680
 Phone: 717-665-3827
 Fax: 717-665-7685
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm

Presort
 insignia

Randall O. Wenger - Township Manager
 manager@raphotownship.com
 Dave Eggert - Zoning Officer
 zoning@raphotownship.com
 Drew Keller - Assistant Zoning Officer
 assistantzoning@raphotownship.com
 Melva Kready - Tax Collector
 melva@raphotownship.com
 John Haldeman - Public Works Director
 roadmaster@raphotownship.com
 Ena Marie Banks - Recycling Coordinator
 enamarie@raphotownship.com
 Lindsey Brenner - Bookkeeper/Admin. Assist.
 office@raphotownship.com

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Emergencies - 911
 Manheim Borough Police
 Non-emergency-717-665-2481
 Sewage Enforcement Officer
 Len Spencer-717-989-9439

UPCOMING 2022 ELECTION DATES:

General Election - November 8

RECYCLING FACT

Target Corporation recently rolled out a new line of products designed to reduce waste. It is called **Target Zero** and features products and packaging that is designed to be refillable, reusable, or compostable, made from recycled content or made from materials that reduce the use of plastic. Be looking for the **Target Zero** icon throughout their stores and online at target.com. Hundreds of products from brands including Burt’s Bees, PLUS, Pacifica, Grove Co. and Target’s own brand – Everspring - have joined this collection.



Rapho Recycles

RECYCLING TIP





Pumpkins and corn stalks are beginning to appear on front porches and in yards. Here are a few tips from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to reduce waste related to fall and Halloween:

- When carving jack-o-lanterns, save the pumpkin seeds and roast them with a little olive oil and salt and pepper. They make a healthy snack.
- Compost your pumpkins, even if you don’t have a home compost system, you can bury them. They are great for the soil!
- Green your costume by shopping thrift stores, trading with a friend or making your own costume.

RECYCLING

BIG 4

We belong in the recycling bin!

<p>1</p> <p>CORRUGATED CARDBOARD</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS WITH NECKS</p> 
<p>3</p> <p>METAL FOOD & BEVERAGE CANS</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>GLASS JARS & BOTTLES</p> 

CORNER

No burning of trash, construction materials, or recyclables, including yard waste, is permitted in Rapho Township.