

RAPHO REPORTER

Spring/Summer 2018

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BACKYARD LANDSCAPING

Residents often ask whether the Township requires permits for tree plantings. It seems like a simple question, but the answer may be complicated, depending on many factors. Trees and shrubs are wonderful additions to a backyard, and the environmental benefits of tree plantings, particularly near waterways, are enormous. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has recently kicked off an effort to plant 10 million trees in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by 2025. Large scale tree plantings on farms are easy to spot, with white tree shelters that help protect seedlings as they establish roots. Some of these plantings are installed as part of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP offers payments to property owners in return for removing land from production by planting and maintaining wide riparian buffers adjacent to streams. Property owners whose land is bisected by a stream may wish to contact the Lancaster County Conservation District to learn about funding opportunities.

Choosing the right location for the right type of tree is a critical decision. Planting trees near an actively farmed field, where foliage may hinder crop growth, is not advisable, for example. Residents who wish to plant large trees near any property line are encouraged to talk with their neighbors about the type of tree and distance from the line. Ongoing care and maintenance is vital to a tree's health, and a discussion between neighbors about how the tree will be maintained as it grows can help to avoid future disagreements.

Native trees support diverse species of insects and birds. Nurseries and landscapers can recommend trees that are most likely to thrive in the soil conditions at the property.

Owners of residential or commercial lots in more densely populated areas have an additional consideration to factor into their tree planting process — stormwater easements. Residents should review their deeds and familiarize themselves with

any easements or homeowners' association regulations that restrict their lots. Stormwater easements, particularly those with natural drainage systems like grass swales, function best when there are no impediments, including all structures and landscaping.

Trees and other landscaping may seem to add privacy screening and natural beauty to a small property. However, trees obviously grow, and issues that may seem insignificant at planting time will create future headaches. Tree roots can undermine established grass in swales. Leaves and needles falling into inlets or cluttering infiltration areas can cause puddling and erosion. Shade tree canopy cover over stormwater facilities limits the amount of sunlight that is needed to sustain healthy grass coverage. Maintaining grass cover helps to prevent sediment runoff to waterways that flow to the Chiques Creek and its tributaries.

Residents should be certain about where their lot lines are and where any easements are in relation to those lines. Many stormwater easements in development areas are 20 feet wide. Some may straddle property lines, and others may be situated entirely on one property. No structures will be permitted in any easement, and no plantings at all are allowed within a swale area. Rapho Township, like other municipalities, is responsible for ensuring that all stormwater facilities are properly maintained. Township staff members regularly inspect easements and stormwater facilities. Property owners who install any planting that is anticipated to impede a facility from functioning as designed unfortunately may be forced to remove it.

So back to the simple question...does the Township issue permits for tree plantings? The short answer is that permits are **not** required for landscaping. Township staff members may be able to assist property owners in identifying where and what to plant, but residents are their own best resources when evaluating the conditions and easements on their properties before planting.

MANHEIM PROJECT

Nine Manheim area churches are joining together at the end of July for the sixth year of what is called the Manheim Project. It is an initiative taking place in two other Lancaster County communities where churches take on small house projects and repairs for homeowners who are unable to afford to complete the projects on their own.

The Manheim Project was begun in 2013 by White Oak Church of the Brethren, who completed 20 projects in Manheim Borough. Since then, the scope and number of projects has continued to increase, and last year eight churches completed over 100 projects in Manheim Borough and Penn and Rapho Townships. Projects that were done included painting, cleanup, porch rebuilding, door and window repair, drywall, chimney repair, concrete paths, power washing, and yard work.

This year's Manheim Project is continuing in a similar way and will run for two weeks, from Monday, July 16 to Tuesday, July 31.

As with the other Lancaster County projects, the Manheim Project will work with Love INC, an organization that helps organize practical needs. Love INC will handle the initial requests and make assessments based on the homeowner's financial and house needs. Once a project is accepted, the churches will be contacted for the next steps of estimating the scope of the project and determining whether it is feasible to actually complete the project.

If you have a house project that you would like to have considered, please contact Love INC at (717) 735-7540 by the end of June.



MANHEIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Manheim Historical Society is looking for volunteers! Volunteer opportunities are available to assist Curators at regularly scheduled open houses at various locations in Manheim. Volunteering at the Historical Society is fun and easy! You can play a vital role in keeping the history of our community alive. Sign up for open houses on any of the following dates:

Saturday—June 9 / Sunday—June 10, 17

Sunday—July 8, 5, 22, 29

Sunday—August 12, 19, 26

Sunday—September 9 or 23

No experience is necessary! Contact Wes Geib, Sr. at 717-635-0716.



STORMWATER: SEDIMENT REDUCTION

Under the nation's ever-evolving stormwater program, local governments aim to prevent or minimize stormwater runoff. Despite these efforts, Pennsylvania is still falling short of goals to reduce phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment in its waterways, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Below are some ways you can help to improve the water quality in our community.

- Do not connect sump pumps, cellar drains, or roof drains to the sanitary sewer system. Modern sanitary systems are designed to handle sewage only, not stormwater, which can overwhelm a system and potentially cause sewer overflows.
- Fertilize lawns only when needed to establish vegetation or when called for by a soil test. If applying fertilizer, use a spreader that has been recently calibrated and apply at the minimum recommended rate at the proper time.
- Minimize stormwater runoff by using rain barrels, rain gardens and pervious surfaces to promote infiltration into the ground, rather than runoff into storm drains and waterways.
- Maintain septic systems, since overburdened or malfunctioning systems contribute nitrogen to groundwater and local surface water.



Rapho Township's model rain garden

LIBRARY NEWS

Milanof-Schock Library offers a large variety of monthly programs for families and adults! Visit mslibrary.org for dates and times.

- Children/Family—Weekly Story Times, Preschool Science, STEM Club, Family Bingo, Lego Club, Fun Fort Friday, Indoor Playdates
- Teen—Anime Club one Saturday a month
- Teen Café Fridays 3:00-4:30
- Adult—Game Night, Closely Knit Group, 2 Book discussion Groups, Painting Class, Lifelong Learners Programs, Special Programs

The Library's Annual Blueberries for Books Fundraiser

Orders can be placed beginning April 20 through mid-June for 10lb. boxes for \$30.00

RAPHO TOWNSHIP IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Please like and follow our page! This is a great way to get information about upcoming events or important alerts about road closures & trash information.

Rapho Township, Lancaster County - Pennsylvania



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Township Office - 717-665-3827

County Control - 911

Manheim Borough Police non-emergency
717-665-2481

Sewage Enforcement Officer - 717-653-1008

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 PC meeting

Planning Commission — First Mon at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board—First Tues at 7:30 p.m.

CHIQUES CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE WATERSHED EXPO 2018

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6 - 6:00-8:00 P.M.
MANHEIM FARM SHOW, 502 E. ADELE AVE. MANHEIM



Come join in the fun at our 7th annual Expo! Explore the creek at the Manheim Farm Show. It's fun and educational for the entire family!

Expo highlights include:

- Launching water balloons
- Rain barrel painting and raffle
- Making a fish print t-shirt
- Home composting workshop
- Streambank fencing exhibit
- Native plant display
- Beekeeping & reptiles
- FREE Kreider's ice cream and drinks

Check out our website or Facebook page for more info: www.chiquescreekwatershed.org

Also watch for upcoming events organized by the Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center for the "Chiques Creek Reenvisioned" project. Activities for farmers, contractors, and homeowners will be sponsored.



LOVE YOUR DOG, LICENSE YOUR DOG

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year. Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.

An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and the lifetime fee is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

The small license fee protects the millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. It also helps keep shelters running.

Dog licenses are available at the County Treasurer's Office or online at www.licenseyourdogpa.pa.gov.

DISPOSING OF FOAM

FOAM—Used polystyrene containers, i.e., foam cups, egg cartons, ice chests, protective packing (NOT "peanuts"), can be dropped off at these **Dart Container recycling locations**:

- 60 E. Main Street, Leola
- 110 Pitney Road, Lancaster
- Lancaster Landfill, 7224 Division Highway, Narvon



2018 RAPHO TOWNSHIP SUMMER PLAYGROUND

Under the direction of GEARS (Greater Elizabethtown Area Recreation and Community Services), Rapho Township will once again offer the Youth Summer Playground Program. Energetic and enthusiastic playground leaders will guide participants in active games, board games, sports leagues, tournaments, arts & crafts and much more! Schedules of weekly activities will be posted. Come check out this exciting program designed to give your children something to do this summer!



Who: Children ages 6-14

When: Mon-Thu, June 13-July 26

Time: 9 a.m.-12 noon

Where: Rapho Township Park (960 Strickler Road, Mt. Joy)

Fee: \$50/child for entire summer for residents of the Manheim Central School District!! \$5 Daily Fee (\$60 Non-Resident)

To register:

- On-line at www.GetintoGEARS.org
- Phone (717-367-0355) or Fax (717-367-4138)
- Mail-in (600 East High Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022)

SPRING CLEANUP TIME IS HERE: GRASS CLIPPING MAINTENANCE

Please do not discharge grass clippings and other waste into storm drains, as this has a serious effect on our storm water system. It is very important to keep the storm drains clear, as they could become clogged due to excessive sediment and debris build up. Clogged storm drains can cause flooding. Grass clippings also contribute to sediment building up in creeks, streams, rivers and bays. Below are some tips for grass clipping maintenance.

- Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keep them out of streets and storm drains.
- Use a mulching mower to return grass clippings and leaves to your lawn.
- Lawn clippings are high in nutrients and should be treated as if they were a fertilizer.
- Lawn clippings are an important nutrient source for lawns, as well as an important source of organic matter which enhances stormwater infiltration, soil health and water retention.
- If you do bag your grass, be sure to dispose of it properly. Do not drop off grass clippings at the Township's yard waste recycling facility or put clippings in your trash.



RAPHO TOWNSHIP

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Presort
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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 - Administrative Assistant
office@raphotownship.com

Visit our website at
www.raphotownship.com

RECYCLING CORNER

RECYCLING TIP

Check the weather forecast when preparing for trash and recycling collection. Recyclables should not be placed at curbside on windy or rainy days. Hold your recyclables for the following week.



RECYCLING INDUSTRY CRISIS

The United States generates more recycling than any other country in the world, and China is the largest buyer of the recyclables. The Chinese government has recently reduced the amount of contamination allowed in recycled materials from 5% to .05%. Contamination is defined as any non-recyclable (trash) that is mixed into bales of recycling. When the bales arrive in China, they are cut open and sorted. The bales are considered “contaminated” if a certain percentage of trash is found in them.

The waste industry is dependent on the recycling market. However, if the United States cannot meet China’s contamination limits, the cost of trash and recycling will increase dramatically. So, what can you do to prevent contamination?

- Educate yourself on what your trash hauler does and does not accept in your recycling bin.
- Don’t throw any items in your recycling container unless you are sure they are recyclables. **When in doubt, throw it out!**
- Always throw wet, non-recyclables into the trash.
- Make sure containers are rinsed prior to placing them into your recycling bin. Food residue can contaminate recyclables.

RECYCLING FACT

McDonald’s says that by 2025 100% of their restaurant packaging will come from renewable, recycled or certified sources with a preference for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

No burning of trash or recyclable materials, including yard waste, is permitted in Rapho Township!