

June 25, 2009
Summer Edition

West Nottingham Township Newsletter

Freedom Fest 2009

Freedom Fest 2009 will be held on Saturday, July 4 at Nottingham County Park, 150 Park Road from 5:00 to 10:30 p.m.

Freedom Fest gates open at 4:00 p.m. There is no walk-in admission fee. However, a \$10 per vehicle parking fee will apply to visitors who park at the Herr's Visitor Center or at Nottingham County Park. Shuttle busses will be available from 5:00 p.m. until 9:15 p.m. to escort visitors from the

parking areas to the event field.

The Entertainment begins at 6:00 p.m. with the *Give & Take Jugglers*. At 7:30 PM, the band *Country Joe & The Honky Tonk Heroes* will appear on the main stage until the start of the fireworks display. This year, visitors can spin and twirl on the *Orbotron* or balance on the swiveling *Jacob's Ladder*. Attractions operate from 5:00 p.m. until dark.

More than a dozen vendors will

be serving festival-style foods. "Chipper" the Herr Foods mascot will meet and greet guests. Free hayrides are available from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Field seating is available for both the concert and fireworks show. Arrive early and bring a blanket or lawn chair. Please be advised that alcohol is strictly prohibited, and coolers and similar items are subject to being checked. Pets and canopies or tents are not permitted.

At 3:00 p.m., traffic on Old Baltimore Pike and Park Road will be one-way between Herr Drive and Cemetery Road. Park Road will be closed to vehicular traffic at 5:00 p.m. Residents who live along Park Road and Old Baltimore Pike should encourage visitors to arrive before 5:00 p.m. Vehicles may access the park via Cemetery Road until all spaces are occupied. All roads to the event close at 9:15 p.m.!

Passing showers or storms may delay the show. If the weather prohibits the set-up or safe shooting of the fireworks, the event will be postponed until Sunday, July 5. Vouchers will be distributed at both parking locations.

We appreciate the many residents who accept with good cheer the minor inconveniences necessary to accommodate the over 10,000 visitors who attend Freedom Fest and the volunteers and staff who go the extra mile to keep everyone safe.

For more information, please visit www.chesco.org/ccparks or the Secretary at 610-932-4072 ext. 300.

What you need to know about

Township Taxes

Real Estate & Per Capita Taxes

Real estate and per capita tax bills have been mailed. If you have not received your tax bill(s), please contact the Tax Collector, Pat Vail, immediately at 610-932-4445.

The last day to pay your real estate and per capita tax bills at the discount rate is June 30. Each bill should be paid with a separate check or money order. Please do not staple your payment to the tax bill.

Change of Address Notification

Residents are responsible for notifying the Township when mailing addresses have changed or if a post office box is in use. Your current mailing address should be on file with the Township so that tax bills and other correspondence reach you in a timely manner.

Earned Income Tax

The Earned Income Tax (EIT) is a 1% income tax collected by Berkheimer Tax Administrators. One-half

of this tax goes to the school district and the other to the Township. **ALL** residents are required to pay the EIT. Failure to pay the EIT may result in delinquent charges. For EIT forms or Berkheimer contact information visit www.hab-inc.com.

Local Service Tax

The Local Services Tax (LST) was enacted January 1, 2008. It requires that individuals who works in the township and earns more than \$12,000 per year pay an annual flat tax of \$52. This includes individuals who are self-employed or those who conduct a business out of their home. Businesses should file quarterly returns even if they are exempt. If you have questions, please contact Berkheimer or the Township Secretary.

There is a \$25 charge for any check returned for insufficient funds.

Helping our Seniors survive hot weather

Summer is here and so is the hot weather. Did you know there are about 370 deaths in the United States each year due to heat stroke? Other deaths occur from medical conditions made worse by exposure to high temperatures. Almost half of all victims are 65 years and older.

The energy crisis has increased the risk of heat-related illnesses among the elderly. Seniors on fixed incomes are forced to turn off air conditioners to cut utility costs, increasing the risk for heatstroke or heat related illness. While fans are sufficient in the spring and early summer, they are not effective when conditions reach 90 degrees and 35% humidity.

Please consider the following factors that may increase the risk for heat-related illness for individuals who are

- 65 years and older
- live in isolation or extreme social circumstances
- suffering from heart, lung, or kidney disease, high blood pressure

or diabetes

- in long term residency care

Remember, ALL heat-related illnesses are PREVENTABLE!!! How can you make a difference? Check on the elderly and disabled frequently. Encourage them to stay hydrated and to limit exposure to heat. Organize a "Friendly Phone Call" system where neighbors call to check on the elderly during hot weather. Create a list of people willing to offer help during an emergency. Check on the elderly to see if they are taking precautions or experiencing dangerous symptoms during hot weather. Offer a ride to or from an errand. If energy costs are a factor, take an elderly neighbor to an air-conditioned public facility, such as the Oxford Senior Center, or Oxford Public Library, or a local store. Share these tips for staying cool:

- Take a cool shower or bath.
- Eat light, healthy foods that do not need to be cooked.
- Avoid using the oven or dryer dur-

ing the hottest parts of the day.

- Turn off lights, they emit heat!
- Use cool towels around face and neck.
- Use hand-held or portable fans.
- Keep a spray bottle with cold water handy for spritzing.
- Freeze water in plastic bottles to use as ice packs.
- If outdoors, stay in shaded areas near trees or water.
- Dress in light fabrics like cotton.
- In non-air conditioned homes, open windows on opposite sides of the house to promote air flow.
- Keep curtains, shades, and blinds drawn during the daytime especially if exposed to direct sunlight.
- Close doors to rooms not in use to concentrate cool air.

Most importantly, call 9-1-1 if you or someone you know is suffering from heat stroke! For more information, contact the Township at 610-932-4072 or visit our website at www.wnt.gov.org and click on "Links".

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Information

Six weeks after submitting a Property Tax/Rent Rebate application, applicants may visit www.papropertytaxrelief.com and check the status of the rebate by entering his/her Social Security number, anticipated rebate amount and birth date. The website may also be used to confirm claim status, rebate amount and the date a rebate is expected to be mailed or direct-deposited. Rebate checks will begin being distributed to early applicants on July 1. Applicants can also check rebate status by calling, toll-free, 1-888-PATAXES.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows/widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 (which excludes half of Social Security income) for homeowners and the maximum standard rebate for both homeowners and renters is \$650. The income limit for renters is \$15,000.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms and information are available online or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Forms and assistance also are available at Department of Revenue district offices, local area agencies on aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices. The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2008 is December 31.

NOTICE

The Historical Commission will not meet during the months of July and August.

Summer Road Maintenance

Warm weather is here and summer road maintenance has begun! The township road crew is busy mowing along roads, trimming trees, and making repairs.

Please drive slowly and cautiously through work zones and around road equipment, and obey all posted speed limits.

To report debris in the road or a downed power or telephone line, please call 9-1-1. To contact the Road Master about a non-emergency situation, please call 610-932-4072 ext. 301.

Swimming pools, including inflatables, require a permit

Ah, summer is here and so is the heat! No worries! You just bought one of those above ground pools that almost set-up itself! Before start filling your new pool with water, you should contact the township's zoning officer. According to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (PA-UCC), any pool capable of holding a water level greater than twenty four inches (24"), must be permitted and be inspected by a Building Inspector.

Last year a number of residents put up pools without permits. PA-UCC, Act 45 and Township laws have specific permit requirements for pools, which include electrical inspections and fencing requirements. Inflation pools must also comply with these regulations. It does not matter if you plan to put less water in the pool, bottom line is if the pool can hold more than 24 inches of water, you must obtain a permit.

Residents who do not obtain a permit before erecting a pool will be sub-

ject to enforcement proceedings and possible fines. To obtain more information about pools or permits, please contact or Codes/ Zoning Officer at 610-932-4072 ext. 302.

Other projects that require permits include the following:

- Re-roofing your home: A building permit is required if you are going to repair more than 25% of your roof
- Placing a shed: A zoning permit is required for all sheds, regardless of the size.
- Detached garage: A zoning permit is required and possibly a building permit.
- Re-paving or paving your driveway: A road occupancy permit is required for any repair or paving that comes into contact with a Township road.
- Building a deck or porch: Zoning and building permits are required.

Residents who live in a mobile

home park must have a permit from the township to install a shed.

For permit applications and fees schedule, visit www.wnt.gov.org and click on the "Applications, Permits & Fees" link.

Keep your eyes out for Gypsy Moths

Have major portions of your oaks or other hardwoods suffered leaf loss? Do you see brown oval-like cocoons on the trunk or masses of caterpillars with blue and red dots crawling over the bark? If so, you may have a gypsy moth infestation.

For the past several years, residents of the Nottebrae neighborhood have suffered from this non-native pest. The Township is trying to identify the extent of the infestation to qualify for the state eradication program. (This spring, a group of Nottebrae residents paid for spraying at their own expense.)

Because gypsy moths have few natural enemies, an infestation can cause more damage than the tent caterpillars we see each season. Even healthy trees can't survive three years of defoliation.

For private landowners, the Chester County Authority will determine if a property will qualify to participate in the gypsy moth suppression program. Landowners must contact the Chester County Gypsy Moth Coordinator by **July 15** to have their property evaluated, and to be considered for inclusion in the following year's gypsy moth suppression program. The Chester County Coordinator can be reached at (610) 344-6684.

For more information, please visit www.wnt.gov.org and click on "Links" then look for the "Gypsy Moth Information" link. If you suspect you may have gypsy moths on your property, contact Matt Krause at 610-932-5208 or email krausems@zoominternet.net.

Recycling Rules & Recommendations

In May 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance governing the disposal of waste and recyclables in the Township. A copy of the ordinance can be found on the Township's website, www.wnt.gov.org, by clicking on the "Ordinance and Zoning" link.

The Township offers a 24-hour recycling center, which is located behind the municipal building at 100 Park Road. Acceptable recyclable items include #1 and #2 plastics, glass bottles, metal and aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, paper and paperboard (e.g., cereal boxes), and cardboard boxes.

Residents who desire curbside recycling should contact their trash hauler to request a recycling bin and route schedule. Recyclables are not permitted to be commingled with trash. All trash haulers are required to offer the option of curbside recycling. If you don't choose curbside recycling, you should be bringing your recyclables to the recycling center.

Residents are required to contract a trash hauler for disposal of trash. Burning of waste is prohibited.

Business are also required to have a recycle program. Quarterly reports regarding the type of recyclable material and amount recycled should be provided to the Township. Quarterly report forms can be obtained by visiting the website or contacting the Township Secretary.

When each family and business expands its recycling, we protect our natural resources, postpone the need for more landfills, and increase the size of the Recycling Program Performance Grant the Township receives from the State. For more information, please contact the Township at 610-932-4072.

West Nottingham Township

P.O. Box 67

Nottingham, PA 19362

Standard Mail

Permit No. 8

Nottingham, PA

POSTAL PATRON NOTTINGHAM, PA 19362

Visit us on the web at

www.wnt.gov.org



WEST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

TOWNSHIP ADDRESS

100 Park Road
P.O. Box 67
Nottingham, PA 19632

In case of an emergency, please dial 911.

Phone: 610-932-4072
Fax: 610-932-6110
Website: www.wnt.gov.org
Email: westnottinghamtp@zoominternet.net

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gerald Cox, Chair Ext. 400
David Ross, Vice Chair Ext. 401
Eric Todd, Supervisor Ext. 402

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Candace Miller Ext. 300
Mon/Wed 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tues By appointment

CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Cynthia King Ext.302
Tue 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

ROADS DEPARTMENT

Norman Marsh, Road Master Ext. 301
Kenneth Poole
Mon - Fri 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

TAX COLLECTOR AND

ASSISTANT CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Patricia Vail 610-932-4445
Fax: 610-998-9382

BUILDING CODES OFFICIAL

Charles Shock 610-220-9294

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Planning Commission, 1st Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Zoning Ordinance Task Force, 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm
Supervisors Workshop, 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Board of Supervisors, 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Historic Commission, 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm,
September through December

For more information, visit www.wnt.gov.org and click on the "Schedule of Meetings" link.

**Please check the website frequently
for changes to meetings or office hours**