



London Grove Township  
372 Rose Hill Road, Suite 100  
West Grove, PA 19390  
Phone: 610-345-0100  
Fax: 610-345-0455  
Email: [admin@londongrove.org](mailto:admin@londongrove.org)  
Website: [www.londongrove.org](http://www.londongrove.org)  
Office Hours:  
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

#### Board of Supervisors:

Richard Scott-Harper, Chairman  
Dave Connors, Vice Chairman  
Michael Pickel  
Robert Weer  
Raymond Schoen

#### Codes and Inspections:

Accurate Building Inspections  
Charles Shock  
Scott Moran

#### Fire Marshal:

Shane Kinsey, Fire Marshal  
Robert Weer, Asst. Fire Marshal

#### Planning Commission

Colleen Preston, Chairman  
Aimee Bowers, Vice Chairman  
Marie Hittinger  
Rick Schroder  
Geoffrey Stroud  
Charles C. Shock  
Frank Scarpato

#### Township Office:

Terry Woodman, Interim Township Manager  
Shane P. Kinsey, Public Works Director  
Jacqui Guenther, Finance Director  
Mark Vitanza, Public Works Superintendent  
Dawn Maciejczyk, Admin. Asst.  
Charles Shock, Code Official  
Lois Zunino, Codes Admin. Asst.  
Suzanne Sylvina, Receptionist

#### Tax Collector:

Kurt Engleman, Real Estate Tax  
Keystone Collections Group, EIT

## LETTER FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN DAVID CONNORS

Your supervisors recently approved an initial 2017 budget that does not require any increase in township taxes, and that budget is expected to be fully approved in our December meeting. Over the last several years, we have implemented financial planning tools that will ensure a focus on roads, bridges, and other core services benefiting the residents of London Grove. I have mentioned this a couple of times but having an equipment replacement plan, a capital plan, and a five year financial forecast based on a ten year historical analysis will continue to ensure our main priorities are funded and our tax rates are stable.

In recent meetings some questions have been asked regarding our new public works building project. I truly appreciate public participation and your feedback is well received, in fact I would love to see more of our residents at our meetings. Most of the questions seem to center around the overall cost of the project, and I wanted to take a second to point a couple of other things out. First of all the building is much needed. Our current building, located along Rt 41 towards Avondale, is not in good shape and no longer fits our needs. Secondly, and most importantly, no one has asked how we can take on this project without raising taxes. Again I go back to the financial tools the supervisors put in place over the last several years. This type of planning has helped us reduce our spending in certain areas, save towards the capital plan, and shift our financial focus to the critical areas of our community. The cost of the public works building project (debt service) is covered in this year's budget, and again no tax increase was necessary.



We have many great people in our community doing wonderful things. One thing in particular recently caught my attention and I thought it deserved recognition. Theresa Lattanzio Zunino-McFalls recently organized a community effort to paint over some offensive graffiti on a building in our community. This was a selfless act that showed the essence of our community, and more importantly it showed that we will not stand for any sort of intolerance or hate. If you aren't on it already, I encourage you to join the "West Grove Area Message Board" on Facebook.

Thank you Theresa and all the volunteers who helped out!

Have a safe and happy holidays,

David Connors

Vice Chair, London Grove Township Board of Supervisors

[dconnors@londongrove.org](mailto:dconnors@londongrove.org)

**Safety Tips to Help You Help Responders in an Emergency**

Seconds count... Especially in an emergency. Help responders to be able to act more quickly in the event they're called to your home.

- ◇ Display your house number prominently in a location easily visible from the street. This can be on a placard at the end of your driveway, on your mailbox, or on your house near the front door. Numbers should be at least 3" high.
- ◇ After each snowstorm, "adopt" a fire hydrant that may be located near your home and clear the snow away from it. Fire fighters can connect to hydrants more quickly when they are readily visible and accessible.
- ◇ Residents are responsible for clearing their own driveways, mailboxes and sidewalks if applicable. Do not shovel or plow snow back on the streets. The Public Works Department Road Crew plow the Township streets only.

Open Space Committee  
By: David Sweet

The Township's Open Space Committee continues to work with landowners to achieve permanent open space protection for properties within London Grove. Two properties, totaling approximately 30 acres, were placed under conservation easement in September. The committee currently is working with several other landowners on easement projects that could be completed in 2017.

The Open Space Committee meets regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Any resident with an interest in committee membership is encouraged to contact the Township.

**HIBERNIA MANSION HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY CANDELIGHT TOURS BY JESSICA CIRILO**



Hibernia Mansion's annual candlelight tours will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 - 9:00 PM and December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. The mansion, as seen today, reflects the changes of lifestyle and social status of its various owners over the past two hundred years. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Hibernia became the country estate of Colonel Franklin Swayne, a wealthy Philadelphia lawyer, who added extensive renovations and lavish entertainment for his personal pleasure. Among those pleasures was his love of fox hunting.

This year's theme of "**Holidays, Horses and Hounds**" portrays how the Mansion may have appeared during a holiday hunt. Colonel Swayne often hunted informally on the property accompanied by local gentlemen. Step back

in time with us and enjoy the many fox hunting prints original to the house. See the red jacket that the Colonel wore when fox hunting in England.



The tour includes a stop in the Mansion's Ballroom, where the Friends of Hibernia will provide holiday cheer and refreshments. Add your voices to the carolers, take part in the sweets awaiting you, and bring your wish list for Santa.

Admission is \$5 per person and children under 12 are free. Admission is handled at the door.

Hibernia Mansion is located within Hibernia County Park, 1 Park Road, Coatesville, off the Rte 82 exit of the Rte 30 Bypass. Call 610-383-3812 for more information. <http://chesco.org/1825/Friends-of-Hibernia> - link to Mansion Tour information

**MUNICIPAL AUHTORITY NEWS**  
**BY KAREN LINAWEAVER**



**Snow removal - Fire Hydrants - Notice to Residents with Fire Hydrants on your Property:** As a service to our community, we ask that you please shovel snow around fire hydrants during a snow storm. This effort will help to assist the fire departments' in locating the hydrant in the event of a fire. Precious minutes during fires may make a difference between life and death. The LGTMA has installed fire hydrant markers on their fire hydrants to aid in locating the fire hydrants in times of emergency.

**Water & Sewer Rates 2017** – During the review of the 2017 Budget, the London Grove Township Municipal Authority Board has elected NOT to increase water and sewer rates in 2017.

**Cold Weather is Approaching!** Here are some cold weather tips for the fall/winter seasons:

- \* Before leaving your property for any length of time, turn off the water by closing the main shut-off valve on your property. This swing valve is located in your basement or utility room before the water meter. **London Grove Township Municipal Authority suggests this procedure for all seasons.**
- \* Make sure all outside hoses are disconnected from faucets.
- \* Close garage doors and windows near water pipes.
- \* Close foundation vents. By closing the vents, it keeps the cold air out and can help prevent pipes from freezing.
- \* Insulate all pipes and faucets in unheated areas.
- \* London Grove Township Municipal Authority is not responsible for water problems from the curb stop into your home, except for the water meter. The curb stop is at the Township Right-of-Way by the street. Make sure you have the telephone number of a reliable plumber on hand in case there is a problem on your property.
- \* If your water meter freezes, please call London Grove Township Municipal Authority at 610-345-0300.

**F.O.G. (Fats, Oils & Grease)** - As the holidays are upon us and turkeys are being cooked, please keep your Fats, Oils and Grease out of your sinks, drains & toilets. F.O.G. can ultimately create blockages in your privately-owned sewer pipes and in the public sewer system. Repair costs to remove obstructions caused by F.O.G. can be exorbitant so please help keep FOG out of the sewer system. Thank you





**Park Hours:  
Dawn to Dusk**

If you are interested in tending garden beds in 2017, please contact the Township building at 610-345-0100 for more information.

### Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Township Building unless otherwise stated:

**Board of Supervisors Meetings** are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission Meetings** are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Municipal Authority Meetings** are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation Board Meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Hearing Board** meets on an as needed basis.

**Open Space Committee Meetings** are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Environmental Advisory Committee** meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

## PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

BY: MARIE A. NEILSON



As Goddard Park is headed into the winter season, both township and non-township residents are enjoying the lovely fall weather in the park. A reminder to all, that with freezing temperatures approaching, the water will soon be shut down in our water fountain by the playground and at the Dog Park. We must bring our own water until Spring returns!

Thanks to all the Friends of Goddard Park (FOGP) who assisted in the beautification of our Park throughout the year. London Grove Township can be so proud to call this park our own! People are walking the trails, children are playing in the "Barn" and canines are frolicking in the Dog Park.



Looking forward, the Parks and Recreation Board (PBR) would like to encourage both new and returning FOGP to join in on more specific projects, possibly meeting quarterly or at an as needed basis during the year ahead. Extra hands make projects possi-

ble which do not fall under regular Township maintenance.

This fall an Eagle Scout project has been underway, a wooden walkway in the lower part of the park, which is a welcome addition trail walkers can enjoy. We also had interested residents come forward with an idea of establishing a milkweed habitat for Monarch Butterflies. After discussing at our meeting, a spot was selected and next season there will be an area of cultivated milkweed incorporated into the park.



The PRB encourages residents to attend our meetings, where they have an idea to present or even just to share feedback on the use of the park. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Township building. If your idea falls within the parameters of the park, it can become a reality! Groups can also present ideas for their events to the PRB, which if approved, would also draw in new people to discover and enjoy the very special asset we have right here in London Grove Township.

## CHESTER COUNTY PARKS CAUTION PLAY- GROUNDS MAY CLOSE IN WINTER MONTHS BY: JESSICA CIRILO

When winter is upon us, the associated freezing conditions affect our play areas – not the equipment – but the surfacing material. What we use at Hibernia and Nottingham County Parks can and will freeze. The play mulch we use, called Wood Carpet, is certified for use under and around the apparatus does a fantastic job in absorbing force from falls when the material is soft, malleable and not frozen. It is a great surface for shock absorption and by far the most economical to purchase. Unfortunately, it comes with



the drawback of freezing during the winter and early spring. So, we have no choice but to temporarily close the play areas with this surfacing when staff determines it to be frozen during routine inspections. However; several years ago, Warwick County Park, Pottstown, replaced their wood mulch with a crumb rubber material in a royal blue color to match the blue play apparatus. This material has many superior qualities, but the one that park visitors should most enjoy is the fact that it will not freeze.



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:  
WINTER OPERATIONS BY SHANE KINSEY**

**MS4 Tip: Ice & Snow Removal**



Please think about environmentally-friendly ways to control ice. Traction agents help prevent slipping on ice but don't melt it. Sand, kitty litter and ashes can hurt vegetation, clog sewers, and degrade aquatic habitats. Rock salt is the most common product because it's effective and cheap, however, it is highly corrosive and ecologically damaging. A water-friendly option is Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) products which are low in phosphorous. Use only the recommended amount. CMA is less problematic for soils, vegetation, water supplies, and concrete, and it is non-corrosive, made from corn or petroleum and converts ice into an oatmeal-like mush.



The Department of Public Works currently maintains approximately 120 lane miles of roads, 162 intersections, and 59 cul-de-sacs within London Grove Township. Additionally, the department anticipates additional roads to be dedicated to the township prior to or during the winter season.

Starting in 2012 the township began pre-treating all roadways with a 23.3 % solution of Liquid Sodium Chloride (NaCl) prior to forecasted winter storms. This "brine" application reduces the costs associated with winter maintenance of the roads, and make the roads safer by limiting the bond of snow to the road surface. Storms of 1" or less of Snow, along with ice storms are typically maintained by applications of de-icing materials during the storm. Storms producing greater than 1" of snow typically require the use of plows.



**ROUTES** – The township roads are divided into 6 routes, with a truck equipped with a plow and material spreader assigned to each of the routes. During periods of moderate to heavy snow additional equipment with snow plows are assigned to supplement the trucks.



Roads are plowed and deiced in order of priority. Main roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills, bridges, curves and intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead-end streets. A single pass will be made on side streets to keep them open, but primary emphasis will be placed on main roads until the storm has stopped.

**BLOCKED DRIVEWAYS** – In performing plowing operations, in almost all cases the plow operator must push snow to the operator's right, this is especially true when

plowing turn a round's and cul-de-sac's. When going by they cannot avoid pushing the snow in front of a driveway. The best way to avoid having your driveway "plowed-in" is to wait until crews have completed their final clean up on the street, typically this is when the street is only wet or bare, to clear your driveway. Another way to reduce the amount of snow which ends up in your driveway is to clear an area to the right of your driveway, when looking at your driveway from the street, to give the snow on the blade of the plow a place to empty before it gets to you driveway.

**PRIVATE PLOWING AND SHOVELING** – London Grove Township Regulations and Pennsylvania Law make it illegal to push snow from driveways or parking lots onto public roads. This practice is dangerous and impedes the townships snow removal efforts. If there is no other alternative to pushing snow into the street, the plow driver must plow off the windrow left across the street by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but certainly it should be no worse than when the driver began work.

**MAILBOXES** - Normally, if a mailbox is placed as far from the shoulder of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle, is at the correct height, and the mailbox rests on a firm support, the mailbox should be able to withstand the force of snow from a plowing operation. London Grove Township repairs or replaces only mailboxes and/or posts that are actually struck by a winter maintenance vehicle and such repairs are limited to a maximum of \$50.00. Township staff is required to report such damage to the Director of Public Works, or Public Works Superintendent. Additionally, a paint mark or tire tracks supply evidence of a mailbox strike. The Township does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of snow.



**Woodstove and Fireplace  
Safety  
By Dawn Maciejczyk**

Have a certified chimney sweep clean and inspect your chimney and fireplace for creosote build-up, cracks, crumbling bricks and obstructions.

Place fireplace or wood stove ashes outdoors in a covered metal container at least three feet away from anything that burns.

A flue fire can ruin your chimney or stovepipe. To prevent flue fires, burn dry, well-seasoned wood. Burn small, hot fires. Don't burn trash.

Always use a fireplace screen made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping. If children are present, use a special child-guard screen as a barrier for your woodstove.



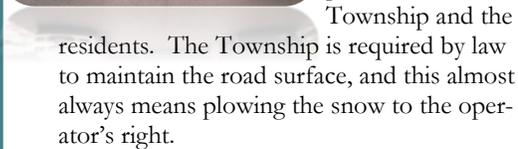
**HOW CAN YOU HELP** – winter operations are very expensive to the Township and the assistance of the township residents is an integral part of this operation.

- \* Placing markers along the roadway in the front of your property can help the operator locate the road. This also reduces the chances for the Right-of-Way to be damaged by the plow leaving the road surface. This is especially important in area where the roadway curves. Additionally marking the edges of driveways in cul-de-sac's can help the operator locate your driveway so that a large pile of snow is not plowed into it. Reflective markers are available at low cost from most home improvement stores, and on-line.



- \* Stay off the roads during storms when possible. The more vehicles on the road during a storm, the slower and more expensive a winter operation becomes. It is best only to travel during a storm when absolutely necessary.

- \* Do not block maintenance vehicles. Attempting to block a township plow, to avoid having your driveway plowed in is illegal in Pennsylvania; additionally this practice slows down the operations resulting in an increased expense to the Township and the residents.



- \* Do not place snow on the roadway. This practice decreases the effectiveness of de-icing materials, and slows the plowing operation. Additionally it is illegal to place snow on the roadway in Pennsylvania.

- \* Avoid parking on the roadway when possible. This is especially true in cul-de-sacs.

Vehicles parked in the roadway slow the winter operations, and in many cases make it difficult for the operator to remove snow from the operator. Parking off the roadway also decreases the chances of your vehicle being damaged during a storm.

- \* Trim trees and growth, and relocate items such as basket ball nets so that there is a minimum of 14 feet clearance above the road surface. Most of the Townships winter equipment is in excess of 12 feet in height, and must get close to the edge of the roadway to property clear the road.



- \* Be sure your mailbox has a strong support. You also may wish to use reflective tape or other material to make the mailbox easier to see during storms or during dark hours.

- \* Stay away from winter maintenance equipment. The equipment that the Department of Public Works is using is large and hazardous, has many blind spots and most often is operating in slippery conditions. When operations are occurring in your area move away from the area until the operation is complete, this is especially true for children who are often attracted to the equipment.



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

London Grove Township needs volunteers for various Boards and Commissions.

Periodically the Township invites residents to volunteer their time on the various boards and commissions that service the community. Please see below the available opportunities to volunteer. This is your time to give back to your community. The Township appreciates your service!

If you would like more information on the Boards and Commissions that have vacancies please contact the Township at 610-345-0100.

**Board of Auditors**  
2 Vacancies

**Environmental Advisory Council**  
2 Vacancies

**Historical Commission**  
5 Vacancies

**Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals**  
3 Vacancies

**Environmental Advisory Committee**  
2 Vacancies



## *Christmas Tree Collection Dates*



*Not sure what to do with the Christmas Tree when the time has come to take it down? Your trash haulers are here to help!*

**Please contact your trash hauler directly to confirm pick-up at your residence in advance.**

*On the following dates trash haulers will be collecting Christmas Trees:*

*January 4- Trash Tech*

*January 21- AJ Blosenski*

*January 14- Republic Services*



# Blood Drive

Save a life. Eat a cookie.  
(That's a good day.)

## LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, February 17, 2017

12:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.

**London Grove Township Building**

Log on for helpful tips and to reserve your appointment time.

[www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation](http://www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation)

London Grove Township Building  
372 Rose Hill Road, Suite 100  
West Grove, PA 19390

Search by sponsor code: **londongrove** to schedule an appointment.

For Donor Eligibility Guidelines: Call **1-800-REDCROSS**

\*\*\*Please contact [tedra.farrell@redcross.org](mailto:tedra.farrell@redcross.org) if you experience issues scheduling donor appointments.



RECYCLING CORNER BY: SUZANNE SYLVINA

Did you know that batteries contain several heavy metals and toxic chemicals that raise concerns over soil contamination and water pollution? Well, London Grove Township can help with your battery recycling needs. There is a convenient drop-off box located in the Township foyer for dry cell single use, rechargeable batteries and cell phone batteries. All other batteries, such as wet cell batteries (car batteries) can be taken to a Hazardous Waste drop-off event to be properly disposed of. Chester County Hazardous Waste Drop-off days for 2017 will be announced soon. Please stay tuned to our website for dates.

**Directions for properly disposing of dry cell batteries at the Township building:**

Please wrap each one in a plastic bag or plastic wrap to help prevent a fire during storage and shipment. We have small plastic bags located at the Recycling Drop-off box for your convenience. London Grove Township will send all collected batteries to Call2Recycle.

**Definitions:**

**Call2Recycle:** is a Department of Environmental Protection approval product stewardship program providing no-cost battery and cell phone recycling solutions across the United States and Canada. It is a nonprofit public service organization funded by battery and product manufacturers committed to responsible recycling.

**Dry Cell Single-use:** batteries are a small commonly-used battery that cannot be recharged. Examples include alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D and 9-Volt) that can be used in toys, flashlights, remote controls, electronics, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors; radios and many other household items.

**Rechargeable:** batteries are a battery that can be charged again after full use by placing in a battery charger and reusing. Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in power tools, cordless phones, laptops, cell phones, cameras and many other household items.

**Wet Cell:** batteries are a type of rechargeable battery. It is commonly found in aviation, electric utilities, energy storage and cell phone towers. The battery contains a liquid electrolyte such as sulfuric acid which is a dangerous corrosive liquid that can be spilled and cause serious damage.

**If you have any questions about recycling your batteries at London Grove Township, please call the office at 610-345-0100. The staff will do their best to answer all of your questions.**

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Sincerely,  
Dawn Maciejczyk  
Editor

The Township is doing their part to reduce and recycle. We are offering the newsletter electronically now. Please sign up on our website if you are interested in receiving them at [www.londongrove.org](http://www.londongrove.org). If you do not have access to a computer or want to continue having the newsletters mailed to you, please call the Township at (610) 345-0100.



Inside this issue:

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