



London Grove Gazette



Winter 2017 Newsletter

London Grove Township
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 Email: admin@londongrove.org
 Website: 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
 Stephen Zurl
 Thomas Szakas

Codes and Inspections:

Latta White, Code Administrator

Fire Marshal:

Robert Weer, Fire Marshal

Planning Commission

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

Township Office:

Ken Battin, Township Manager
 Shane Kinsey, Public Works Director
 Jacqui Guenther, Finance Director
 Dawn Maciejczyk, Township Secretary
 Latta White, Code Administrator
 Lois Zunino, Codes Admin. Asst.
 Suzanne Sylvina, Receptionist
 Carolyn Kirby, Receptionist

Zoning Hearing Board

William Grandizio, Chairman
 Ed Hatchigian
 Bob Gillespie
 Bob Dando, Alternate

Zoning Officer:

Ken Battin

Right-To-Know Officer

Ken Battin

Tax Collector

Kurt Engleman, Real Estate Tax
 Keystone Collections Group, EIT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL PICKEL

Time Well Spent!

In reflecting on my 6 year term as a Township Supervisor I am extremely proud of what the different Board members, and Township staff have accomplished. Together we taught residents what being a public servant really means.

Together we have:

- ◆ Built a park that is used by Township residents, neighboring residents, schools and community groups.
- ◆ Updated infrastructure that was in decline and sometimes beyond repair while staying true to our word that a tax increase would only last two years.
- ◆ Upgraded our vehicles and equipment and even our Public Works Facility to properly maintain Township roads and increase the level's of service we efficiently offer.
- ◆ Proven to be a leader to neighboring municipalities when someone needed to step up and explain why supporting our Emergency Services is so important.
- ◆ Worked with landowners to increase Open Space easements in the northern part of the Township and worked with developers in the south in regards to completing housing developments that had been stagnant.
- ◆ We've mended relationships with our community partners by showing them that the community as a whole is more important than just one municipality.
- ◆ I'm obviously biased when I state this, but London Grove Township, is the best run Township in Chester County. We have the best staff, equipment and volunteers. I can honestly say this because of our list of accomplishments above.
- ◆ I may have surprised some residents and staff when I said that I wasn't seeking another term. It's not that I don't enjoy the people or have a problem with the time commitment. Trust me, I drive by Goddard Park everyday to remind myself what sacrificing a little bit of time can do for an entire community. But who am I to think someone else could not do the job better?
- ◆ Over the past year, we were very lucky to have three very qualified candidates running for two seats. Mr. Dave Connors will continue to provide excellent leadership to the Township and Mr. Lee Irwin will be a welcomed addition. I hope Mr. Richard Ruggeri will consider a volunteer board or running again in the future, because we need someone like him as well.
- ◆ I do want to warn residents of some issues ahead. For too many years our Township has offered top of the line services with no tax increase. Additionally, we have seen the cost of Emergency Services increase along with the Township's own insurance, salaries and day to day cost of doing business. Over the past six years difficult decisions have been made in regards to decreasing insurance and pension contributions, changes in the professional services we use in order to keep tax rates the same. In looking ahead, the Board of Supervisors will have difficult decisions to make in regards to the service levels we offer, and the taxes residents pay. Please don't take this as me being foreboding, but I do feel the need to address it as I have publicly in the past before my term is complete.

I'd like to thank the current and past Board as well as the current and past Township staff. They've patiently worked with a young man in his late 20's through his late 30's and helped him mature as a person. To each of you I'm very thankful for the time you've spent with me. I could not think of a better way to spend 11 years of my life.

Thank You

*LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY NEWS
BY KAREN LINAWEAVER*



Cold Weather is Approaching! Here are some cold weather tips for our customers:

* Before leaving your property for any length of time, turn off the water by closing

the main shut-off valve on your property. This 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, with the exception of 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.

Ms. Karen A. Linaweaver, Manager
London Grove Township
Municipal Authority
372 Rose Hill Road, Suite 300
West Grove, PA 19390

If your water meter freezes, please call London Grove Township Municipal Authority at 610-345-0300.

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please make every effort during the winter to shovel around the hydrants to assist the fire depart-

ments' effort in locating the hydrant. Precious minutes during fires may make a difference between life and death. The LGTMA has installed fire hydrant markers on all of their fire hydrants to assist in locating the fire hydrants in times of emergency.

The Municipal Authority meets the 1st Monday of the month and welcomes the public. For any other information please feel free to contact the Municipal Authority Office at 610-345-0300. Please feel free to visit our website at www.londongrove.org and view the Municipal Authority menu for more information.



*THE GARAGE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTER
BY KRISTIN PRONTO*

**8th Annual Holiday Auction
December 2, 2017
7-10 PM**

The Garage Community & Youth Center is hosting their 8th Annual Holiday Auction on Saturday December 2, 2017 from 7-10PM. The event will be held at the Kennett Square Garage (115 S. Union St. Kennett Square, PA 19348) and is being sponsored by Jeeps for Joy, Fulton Bank, Stifel Nicholas, Hilton Garden Inn, and Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union.

The event will feature heavy hor'deourves, desserts, open bar featuring Moore Brothers Wine, raffles and a silent and live auction. Some highlights of the auction include a week in London, a week in Panama, a week Barbados, several Golf Foursomes, Eagles Tickets, many themed baskets, vacation get-a-ways you do not want to miss, and so much more!

The Garage is a key part of the community, providing support and resources to over 500 at-risk middle and high school students an-

nually. 100% of proceeds will go to support their after-school tutoring, mentoring, community service, and enrichment programs.

Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online at <https://2017garageholidayauction.eventbrite.com>

To learn more about The Garage or the upcoming Holiday Auction, please visit www.garageyouthcenter.org or contact Kristin Proto at 610-444-6464 / Kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org.

Like us on facebook @Garageyouthcenter, Instagram @garageyouth, or follow us on twitter @GarageYouth



GODDARD PARK NEWS
BY ERIC SCHOTT



**PARK HOURS:
DAWN TO DUSK**

By almost any measure Goddard Park has been and continues to be an unqualified success. Most days sees heavy attendance from walkers, joggers, dog owners and children all engaged in enjoying the outdoors. Because of the heavy use, however, the Township has to invest time and money in keeping it a pleasant and safe place to visit. Mr. Shane Kinsey, Director of Public Works and his Department of Public Works are to be congratulated for their work in keeping Goddard Park the centerpiece of London Grove Township.



and tear well beyond normal use. Not only will the slide tube need to be repaired but it will need to be protected by a cage so that nobody can jump up and down on it. The playhouse was designed with children in mind but it was not constructed to withstand deliberate damage.

There has also been some damage to the dog park gates. The public works department fixed that as part of its autumn cleanup and restoration. They also filled in some of the stone trails that sustained storm damage and trimmed encroaching vegetation. A new flagpole light has also been ordered.



This was a very popular year for the garden. All of the plots and beds were rented. With the end of the growing season it is time for all renters to clean up. Notices went out in early November advising of this responsibility. Many of the raised beds will be repaired or replaced for 2018.



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.



However, the efforts of Mr. Kinsey and his crew have recently been undermined by misuse and vandalism. Visitors to the playhouse noticed two examples of damage: missing swings and the interior slide tube. The repair of the swings will cost approximately \$80 while the tube repair will be close to \$1800. Both of these items show wear

HOLIDAY RECIPE
BY DAWN MACIEJCZYK



Cranberry-Orange Sauce

Ingredients

- 2 (8-ounce) packages of cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 Orange, zest cut into strips and juiced

- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1 Cinnamon Stick

Directions

Put all the ingredients into a saucepan over medium heat and simmer until the cranberries burst and the sauce thickens, about 15 to 20 minutes. Serve at room temperature or cool and refrigerate. Remove the cinnamon stick before serving.

MS4 Tip:**Ice and 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.



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

The Department of Public Works currently maintains approximately 132 miles of roads, 172 intersections, and

63 cul-de-sacs within London Grove Township. 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. During the 2017-2018 winter season the department will begin utilizing a blend of sodium brine, calcium chloride and a protein (beet juice). This blend will allow the township to blend for each storm to reduce costs while the addition of a protein will reduce the corrosive nature of the brine.

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 de-iced 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 can not 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.

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-sacs 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.



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

Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

2 Vacancies

THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM
...BUT THERE IS A "U" IN
VOLUNTEER!

www.lgtnj.org

WINTER OPERATIONS CONTINUED...

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. The Township is required by law to maintain the road surface, and this almost always means plowing the snow to the operator's right.

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 opera-



WINTERIZING YOUR MAILBOX BY SHANE KINSEY

The London Grove Township Department of Public Works and the U.S. Postal service are both expected to deliver during the winter season... come rain, sleet, snow. The location of your mailbox along the roadway can affect the efficiency of both mail service and snow plowing operations.

Where is your mailbox located? Your letter carrier will make every effort to deliver the mail. However, if the mailbox is not accessible to the carrier due to snow buildup, or if it is not properly located along the road, you may have to pick up your mail at the post office.

Normally, if a mailbox is placed as far from the shoulder of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle and the mailbox rests on a firm support, the mailbox should be able to withstand the force of snow from a plowing operation. 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.

tions, 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 basketball 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.

Plowing operations can push snow against or in front of mailboxes, limiting access and perhaps causing damage to the supports. Check your mailbox and support often, clearing snow from it and depositing the snow properly (never shovel snow onto the road).

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 plowed snow. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal, including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside



WHY ARE BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED? BY LATTA WHITE

Many people ask why building permits are required. Below are some of the reasons why permits and inspections are necessary.

The purpose behind building codes is to give reasonable assurance that a home is safe from structural failure, fire hazards from electrical and heating systems, electrical shock, and health risks. The permits provide a permanent record of the work performed and inspections conducted on the project. Another reason to obtain a building permit is that it's illegal not to. If you fail to get a permit for work that requires it, you can be fined. You may be forced to remove a building or tear out completed work, or you may have trouble selling your home without proof of permitted work. But there are plenty of positive reasons for following the permit process as well:

It keeps your contractor honest. To beat out the price of a competitor, a profit-driven contractor might be tempted to cut corners. Would you know it if he did? Most construction work ends up hidden behind walls and under floors. A building permit requires that a contractor use sound and safe methods and materials. And inspections assure you that he does so.

It guides your do-it-yourself project. No matter how handy you are, you aren't likely to know everything about modern building practices. When you get a permit, you'll have to show the building department

your plans. If they don't follow the codes, the building inspector will ask you to revise them. But if you never apply for a permit, you might go ahead with work that's dangerous or unsound.

It keeps your insurance valid. Building done without a permit can mean that your insurance company may not honor your policy. A fire resulting from work without a permit could leave you holding the bag. If someone falls off a deck that was built without a permit, your liability insurance may not cover his or her injuries [source: Redondo Beach].

It's valuable when you sell your home. If you perform work without a permit, you can assume a potential buyer will know about it. The permit process is a matter of public record. In addition, you may be required to sign a Property Disclosure Statement, in which you have to reveal all problems or defects in the property. Having all the necessary permits makes the sale proceed much more smoothly.

Our highly trained staff work with homeowners and builders to review plans and perform field inspections in order to verify that the project complies with the minimum requirements of all the adopted codes.

The benefit of getting permits for homeowners is so that we can assist and contribute to the process, and to the best of our abilities, make sure the project complies with the codes and is ultimately a safe place in which to live or work.



MEET OUR CODE DEPARTMENT BY DAWN MACIEJCZYK

London Grove Township has been in the process over the last couple of years of revamping its Code Department. Mrs. Lois Zunino is the Administrative Assistant in the Code Department. She has been with London Grove Township for the past 13 years and has 30+ years' experience in Municipal Government. When Mrs. Zunino is not working she enjoys spending time with her family.



In May the Township hired Mr. Robert Weer as the Fire Marshal. Mr. Weer has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration as well as 30+



years in Emergency Services. When he is not working he enjoys spending time with his family and continuing his education. The Fire Marshal is responsible for performing a variety of technical duties in support of the Township's local code enforcement program;

monitors and enforces a variety of applicable ordinances, code and regulation related to zoning, land use, nuisance housing, building codes, fire codes, health and safety, waste and other matters of public concern.

In September we welcomed Mr. Latta White as the Building Code Official. Mr. White has 20 years on the job experience. When he is not working he enjoys traveling and spending time with his family. The

Building Code Official enforces the provisions of Township regulations and the Pennsylvania Construction Code, the London Grove Township Property Maintenance Code and other Township ordinances and regulations. Latta issues permits, reviews plans and conducts inspections of buildings at specified times during their construction to assure compliance with Township Ordinances.



If you have not had the pleasure of meeting these three individuals yet, please stop by and say hi. If you have any questions for the Fire Marshal or the Building Code Official, please feel free to give them a call at 610-345-0100.



HOLIDAY TREE SAFETY
BY DAWN MACIEJCZYK
REVIEWED BY ROBERT WEER



Choose a fresh tree with a natural, deep-green color and flexible needles.

Cut off about two inches of the tree trunk at an angle to expose fresh wood for better water absorption.

Water the tree every day. An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the tree, a seal will form on the cut and the tree will not be able to absorb any more water.

Keep the tree away from all sources of heat to preserve its freshness. Miniature lights are a better decoration choice than standard sized lights. The cooler miniature lights do not dry the tree needles as quickly.

When the needles get brittle or dull and begin to fall from the tree, it is time for the tree to go back outside.

Use only lights that are UL approved. Check every set of lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections before using. Throw away anything that is not in perfect condition.

Use no more than three sets of lights per single extension. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strings in one circuit.

Always turn off all tree lights and decorations before you go to bed or leave your home.

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable; keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children; and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food.

REMINDERS FROM THE CODE DEPARTMENT
BY LOIS ZUNINO



Rental / Non-Owner Occupied Property Owners— We would like to remind all landlords and owners of non-owner occupied properties to register their properties with the Township within thirty (30) days of the semi-annual June 30th and December 31st reporting requirement. Report shall contain the complete name and address of each person 18 years of age and older who is currently residing in each property. This report form can be found on our website or you can contact the office, and have it mailed to you.

On-Lot Sewage/Septic Systems— In March of 2012, the London Grove Township Board of Supervisors adopted an On-Lot Sewage Management Ordinance. It requires property owners that have on-lot sewage/septic systems to pump at least once during a three (3) year period.

Purpose— Regular pumping is critical to the maintenance of a sewage/septic system and the proper function of the system. If systems are not regularly pumped out, issues such as overflows and backups could occur endangering groundwater as well as your health and safety. In addition, backups and overflows could cost you a significant amount of money in repairs that could have been avoided with a regular pump out schedule of the system. Additional information regarding on-lot sewage systems can be found on London Grove Township's website or by visiting The Chester County Health Department's website.



OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

BY DAVID SWEET



If you'd like to join many of your London Grove neighbors who have preserved their land for the benefit of future generations -- and realized a financial benefit in the process -- the Township Open Space Committee has information and assistance to get you started.

London Grove Township has been partnering with Natural Lands Trust, the Brandywine Conservancy, and the Chester County Agricultural Lands Preservation Board to make preservation attractive to landowners. There also may be financial assistance for reforestation stream banks (riparian buffers) to improve water quality in our region. For more information, contact the Township's Open Space Committee representative, David Sweet (610-436-6585; dsweet510@verizon.net). You also are welcome to attend the Committee's monthly meeting, held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Township Bldg.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

BY DAWN MACIEJCZYK



On Wednesday, November 1, 2017, London Grove Township Public Works Department celebrated the completion of its new facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Members of the Board of Supervisors, as well as Public Works Department Employees, Administrative Staff along with several Township residents and Emergency Services Personnel were in attendance at the building dedication and Grand Opening Ceremony.

Mr. Scott-Harper, Board of Supervisors Chairman stated, "On behalf of myself, the Board of Supervisors, and the residents of London Grove Township, I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to our past and present road crew members, for their efforts in making this facility become a reality."

Mr. Shane Kinsey, Director of Public Works then added "I would like to thank the road crew for stepping outside their scope of work and completing all the site work for this facility. They went above and beyond to make this happen."

Mr. Michael Tome, Public Works Department employee commented "I've been with the Township for 7 years and I am proud to make this facility my new home."



The new facility replaces the undersized and outdated Route 41 garage with a 14,500-square foot building, adequate vehicle and equipment storage, a maintenance bay, a wash bay, a sign shop, tool storage areas, office space, a break room and sleeping area for the Public Works staff during storms all located adjacent to the Township Administration Building. A bonus, is an area dedicated for the multiple training classes the Township host yearly. Additionally, the Township can now store a years supply of salt in the new salt shed and as well as have a modern facility for producing brine.

For more information about the new Public Works Department Facility, call Mr. Shane Kinsey, Director of Public Works at 610-345-0100.



*AVON GROVE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STUDENTS
ENGAGE IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ON WHITE CLAY CREEK
BY JILLIAN YOUNG*



Imagine students learning outside while exploring their local creek, boots in the water, rain or shine. What would they gain from an experience like this, as opposed to sitting at a desk and looking at glossy pictures in a textbook? At Avon Grove Intermediate School, fourth and sixth grade students do just that through Stroud Water Research Center's Stream Ecology Program and environmental education awards from the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program.

The Stroud Center Stream Ecology Program works with schools to create an atmosphere of hands-on learning about fresh water ecosystems. The main priority of the program is to make sure the program covers the scientific standards each school requires. The program is based on the five "E's": Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. Students in

sixth grade travel to the Stroud Research Center for the program, while fourth graders participate on site at the Avon Grove Intermediate School where a branch of the White Clay Creek runs through the property. Students have the opportunity to learn "right in their own backyard," said Tara Muenz, Assistant Director of Education at Stroud Water Research Center.

During the sixth grade program, students have four learning stations. One station includes a tour of the lab facilities where students learn how science is conducted on rivers around the world, and about water conservation techniques. Another station includes experiences with live aquatic macroinvertebrates where they are taught how to identify a river's health by looking at this group of organisms. Tara explained, "Many students have not had the opportunity to interact and observe these incredibly important creatures, and giving them this opportunity also broadens their view of science." A watershed walk is where students observe the stream and examine its physical characteristics. Lastly, students visit an outdoor laboratory that neighbors White Clay Creek. Here students fill a bucket of water from the creek and bring it back to be analyzed. They learn how to measure water quality parameters including: pH, conductivity, water temperature, and nitrate. Students then decide, from the data they collect, whether or not the creek is healthy. The overall goal is to give students a hands-on learning experience where they understand what is happening in their own backyard and how it effects the health of the White Clay Creek.

"When you can blend the community and classroom together, it starts a process of broadening kids' horizons," says Michael Garvin, Assistant Principal at Avon Grove Intermediate School who strongly encourages other schools to apply to the Stroud Center Stream Ecology Program. Mr. Garvin believes, "the exposure you give kids can spark an interest in a completely different direction in their life." Tara explained how the program has also eased students' fears of being outside and has encouraged kindness towards wildlife. Overall, the program helps teachers take science content and principles and put it into a real-world context for students with the ultimate goal of providing students the opportunity to love and respect the environment now, so that they will have a positive influence on it and other students in the future.

The Stroud Water Research Center's Stream Ecology Program for the Avon Grove Intermediate School is made possible through the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Program's Environmental Education Awards (EEA). Schools located in the White Clay watershed can apply for funding annually to help with program and transportation costs. Seven schools and over 2,200 children have received funding to attend environmental education programs since 2010. For more information on whether your school qualifies and how to apply visit whiteclay.org/EEA.



*AVON GROVE LIBRARY PLANS WINTER PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES AND INTEREST
BY LISA SHERWOOD*

From daily Storytime, homeschool programs, and special event weekend programming, to a teen service club, book club for adults, and crafting sessions, Avon Grove Library offers many opportunities for learning and enjoyment in winter 2017-2018. Check the website www.avongrovelibrary.org often for updates and additions.

Children's and Family Programs:

Babies, toddlers and preschoolers, along with their caregivers, can attend free **storytimes** held every weekday at the library. Most are themed for certain age groups, but older and younger siblings are always welcome. No registration is necessary.

Toddler Storytime are held every Tuesday at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime are held every Monday at 10 a.m., Wednesday at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., Thursday at 10 a.m. and Friday at 10 a.m.

Avon Grove Library partners with Starbucks Coffee in Jennersville to offer a weekly **Storytime at Starbucks**, held every Thursday at 1 p.m.

Pets and Friends Storytime, a recent partnership with the Pets and Friends store in Jennersville, is held the first and third Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the store.

Books and Breakfast continues on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. with season-themed stories, fun crafts and a delicious pancake breakfast. All ages are welcome to this lively family-friendly event. This free program requires no registration. On the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., visitors can build setups with tracks, buildings and accessories using the library's collection of **GeoTrax Trains**. This is a free program and no registration is needed. All ages of children welcome.

On the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. to noon, slots are available for a 10-minute session reading aloud to Cooper or Wesley, our **Paws for Reading** canine partners. All ages are welcome. Registration is required prior to this free program.

Lego Club and **Lego Block Party** are free, open to children of all ages, and need no registration. Lego Club is held the first and third Thursday of each month 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Lego Block Party is held the fourth Saturday of each month 1-2 p.m. Legos, Duplos and/or MegaBlocks are provided.

Homeschool Programs:

Lunch Bunch Book Club is a homeschool book club for 1st to 3rd graders, who read an assigned book at home then come to the library to enjoy a bring-your-own-lunch with friends while discussing the book and doing fun extension activities. Registration is required for this free program that meets the 1st Thursday of each month during the school year from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Cooks Among Books is a homeschool book club for 4th to 6th graders, who read an assigned book at home and come to the library to enjoy a bring-your-own-lunch with friends while discussing that book and then making a tasty treat related to the book. Registration is required for this free program that meets the 3rd Thursday of the month during the school year from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Teen Programs:

The **Teen Service Club** meets every Tuesday 3:30-5 p.m. Teens can accrue volunteer service hours by preparing Storytime crafts, helping out at family programs, and participating in other activities to benefit the library. No registration is needed.

Teen Writing Workshop meets the third Saturday of each month from noon-1 p.m. Participants will discover more about writing and how to find a creative voice. This free, no-registration program is for grades 6 to 12. Snacks are provided.

Young Adult Book Club meets the third Saturday of each month from 1-2 p.m. Teens read and discuss a featured young adult book chosen from all genres. This free program requires no registration.

Adult Programs:

"Songs of the Second World War" will be performed Friday, December 8, 7-8 p.m. by Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle of Catfeather Art & Music. There is no registration for this free program that commemorates the 76th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Avon Grove Library's **Book Club for Adults** meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Participants vote on the titles to read and gathers monthly for lively conversation. No registration is necessary for this free program.

Craft and Create for Adults meets the first and second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Participants bring their own favorite project (painting, sewing, scrapbooking, etc.) and enjoy the company of other adults while crafting. No registration is necessary for this free program for adults 18 and over.

Area residents can learn more about Storytime, classes and programs at www.avongrovelibrary.org, which is updated frequently with new programs and details.



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/schedule a pick-up at your
residence in advance.**

AJ Blosenski– 610-444-2341

Advanced Disposal– 610-313-9710

Eagle Disposal– 717-355-9560

Trash Tech– 610-274-1306

Republic Services– 610-869-2222

Waste Management of DE– 800-633-9096



Blood Drive

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

LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, February 16, 2018

10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

London Grove Township Building

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

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 if you experience issues



RECYCLING CORNER
BY: SUZANNE SYLVINA



Winter can be a busy time of year, especially with the holidays fast approaching. With plenty to do around the house and the colder temperatures enticing you to stay snuggled up near a cozy fire, it can be difficult to stay motivated about normal household routines such as recycling. The holidays should be a time to gather together with a room full of laughter and entertainment, but by keeping a few simple tips fresh in the back of your mind, it is easy to stay on top of your recycling habits and still enjoy spending time with friends and family during the holiday season.

At home:

- Wrap your gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper instead of buying wrapping paper.
- Consider purchasing Christmas cards that are made from recycled content.
- The holidays are a busy time for batteries. If you need to purchase this season, consider switching to rechargeable batteries.
- Take your reusable bags from home when you venture out to do your holiday shopping.
- Purchase a programmable thermostat to help keep the temperature lower at night and when you're away, this is a great way to save money and energy throughout the year.
- Turn lights off when you leave a room and consider automatic timers for your indoor and outdoor holiday light.



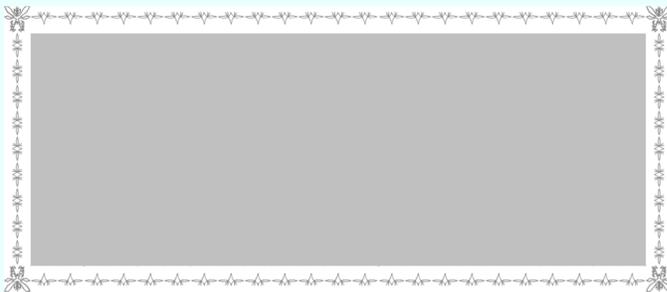
At work:

- Talk to your boss about switching to recycled paper and consider placing a receptacle next to the printer to collect misprinted pages for recycling later.
- When printing large documents, consider two-sided printing and you will use 50% less paper.
- If your office provides disposable cups for the office coffee maker or water cooler, encourage staff to use reusable cups.
- Be sure to turn off the office lights and power down computers and other electronics after everyone has left for the evening.
- Recycle print cartridges rather than disposing of them in the trash.

We hope that these tips will give you some new ideas and inspiration to keep you motivated and recycling all season long. At London Grove Township we encourage recycling because it will help the environment and our community.

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, www.londongrove.org. If you do not have access to a computer and want to continue having the newsletters mailed to you, please call the Township at (610) 345-0100.

Sincerely,
 Dawn Maciejczyk
 Editor



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