

London Grove Gazette



2020 SPRING EDITION

London Grove Township
372 Rose Hill Road, West Grove, PA 19390

Tree City USA

By Tom Szakas



CONGRATULATIONS London Grove Township on being recognized as a TREE CITY USA community!

So what does this mean? The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees.

More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA. They have achieved Tree City USA status by meeting Four Core Standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

Four Core Components of being a TREE CITY USA

1. Form a Tree Board- This has been established. If you are interested in joining this Board, please notify the London Grove Township Manager, Ken Battin. This group will assist in maintaining awareness and helping to secure additional grants for future projects.
2. Create a Tree Care Ordinance- This was the first piece of legislation passed in 2020 by our Board of Supervisors. The Board clearly sees the importance to appreciate trees and what they contribute to our Township.
3. Allot at least \$2 per Capita for Tree Budget- This is one of the best parts of our Tree City USA recognition. This will not cost the taxpayers in London Grove Township 1 additional penny. You should all be pleased to know that the Township has already been dedicating the time, money, and resources to maintain, protect, and add to the Tree population in our community. The amount spent on this activity each year exceeds the recommendation of \$2 per capita.
4. Observe the importance of Arbor Day and Planting Trees- Public activities, such as our recent Goddard Park Celebration, are regarded as a fun way to engage everyone to learn the importance of being good stewards to the environment.

Other communities who have achieved this recognition enjoy valuable key benefits; a healthier habitat for animals, an environmentally conscious government, improved property values, and just making it a better place to call home.

I am proud to have helped move this process to fruition to achieve recognition for London Grove Township and will do what I can continue to help London Grove Township stay focused on improving the safety, health and well-being of our residences.

Message from the Chairman: Dave Connors

I am honored to have been selected as chairman this year, and I want to share some goals for 2020. Our community is facing ever increasing pressure through rising costs, unfunded mandates, and limited resources to pay for it all. We are constantly looking at our efficiencies to see where we can save money, and take a businesslike approach to managing our community.

For 2020 I feel it's important to revisit our five (5) year plan and update it. That includes the road maintenance plan, equipment replacement plan, and of course the capital plan. We will also need to incorporate a bridge replacement plan into that as well, as London Gove owns the most bridges in Chester County. Many of those bridges are going to need to be replaced over the next 10-20 years.

I will also work to establish an economic development group/committee for our community. The purpose of that group would be to develop smart commercial growth that can help offset our ever rising costs (and taxes). A stronger commercial base would ultimately relieve some of the tax burden on our residents and provide more revenue for our township and school district.

I invite you to attend our monthly meetings; they are the first Wednesday of each month. Also, if you are on Facebook please follow the official township page, we have some great information being shared there as well. Lastly, please join me in welcoming our two new Board Members, Christine Allison and Kevin Runey. We welcome their service to the London Grove community!

The Board of Supervisors would like to give a special thank you to the Township Public Works Department for their fine craftsmanship of the large conference room. Everything looks great!

“Please join me in welcoming our two new Board Members, Christine Allison and Kevin Runey.”



Municipal Authority News

Fire Hydrant flushing will take place during the spring/summer months. Flushing ensures the hydrants are exercised, maintained, and in full service. This procedure is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of our residents in case of fire. When the hydrants are flushed your water may be slightly discolored from air pockets and disturbance of the water mains. This condition will dissipate when you run your water for a short period of time. The water is still potable (safe to drink). We also periodically flush throughout the year as an extra precaution. The LGTMA respectfully asks that if you have a fire hydrant on your property, please make an effort to weed-wack around the hydrant during the spring/summer to keep it visible for the fire departments. A visible fire hydrant can save precious minutes while firefighters battle fires. Hydrant markers are placed on all hydrants on the system to assist with visibility throughout the year.

Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G.) are substances that commercial, industrial and residential customers must **not** put in their sinks, toilets and drains. F.O.G. can ultimately create blockages in your privately owned sewer pipes and in the public sewer system. Repair costs to clean/remove F.O.G. from the public sewer system are very expensive and ultimately will cost the consumer if this matter is not taken seriously. Please check the Township website, Municipal Authority Public Water and Sewer, F.O.G. (Fats, Oils and Grease) Program for helpful ideas to keep F.O.G. out of the LGTMA Sewer System. Thank you.

As spring approaches, please be advised that LGTMA customers who are serviced by public water and sewer, should be informed that the sewer portion of your bill is calculated by your water consumption. Please be aware any additional water usage during the warmer months such as watering your lawns, washing your cars, filling your swimming pools, watering flowers and gardening will be reflected in the sewer charge portion of your quarterly bill.

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 Public Water and Sewer Municipal Authority menu for more information.



Why Dogs Bark & London Grove Township's Regulating Dog Barking Ordinance 122

BY DAWN MACIEJCZYK

As the weather gets warmer more and more dogs will be enjoying longer periods of time outside, just like people. No one should expect a dog to never bark. That's as unreasonable as expecting a child to never talk. But some dogs bark excessively. If that's a problem in your home the first step is figuring out what causes your dog to bark too much.

Why Dogs Bark, according to Fetch by WebMD. Barking is one type of vocal communication that dogs use, and it can mean different things depending on the situation. Here are some reasons why dogs bark:

Territorial/Protective: When a person or an animal comes into an area your dog considers his territory, that often triggers excessive barking. As the threat gets closer, the barking often gets louder. Your dog will look alert and even aggressive during this type of barking.

Alarm/Fear: Some dogs bark at any noise or object that catches their attention or startles them. This can happen anywhere, not just in their home territory.

Boredom/Loneliness: Dogs are pack animals. Dogs left alone for long periods, whether in the house or in the yard, can become bored or sad and often will bark because they are unhappy.

Greeting/Play: Dogs often bark when greeting people or other animals. It's usually a happy bark, accompanied with tail wags and sometimes jumping.

Attention Seeking: Dogs often bark when they want something, such as going outside, playing, or getting a treat.

Separation Anxiety/Compulsive Barking: Dogs with separation anxiety often bark excessively when left alone. They also usually exhibit other symptoms as well, such as pacing, destructiveness, depression, and inappropriate elimination. Compulsive barkers seem to bark just to hear the sound of their voices. They also often make repetitive movements as well, such as running in circles or along a fence.

According to London Grove Township's Dog Barking Ordinance 122 Section 2 Definitions- Dog- Any canine, whether domestic breed or otherwise, which is in whole or in part a recognized breed of dog, whether kept for breeding, as a pet, for show, or for any other purpose, whether legal or illegal.

Section 3 Noise Disturbance- It shall be unlawful within the Township of London Grove for any person or persons to own, possess, harbor or control any dog which makes noise continuously and/or incessantly to the disturbance of any person for a period of 15 minutes or more between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. or for a period of 10 minutes or more between the hours of 10:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m. or makes such noise intermittently for ½ hour or more any time of the day or night, regardless of whether the dog is physically situated in or upon private property, said noise being a nuisance, provided that at the time the dog is making such noise, it does so without reasonable provocation, and/or no person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property in or upon which the dog is situated. Prior to the filing of any complaint, it must be demonstrated that reasonable attempts have been made by the aggrieved parties to resolve the dispute.

Section 4 Violations and Penalties- Any person who violates or permits a violation of this article shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding brought before a District Judge under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, plus costs of prosecution. Each day or portion thereof that such violation continues or is permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense, and each section of this chapter that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense.

If you have any questions regarding London Grove Township's Dog Barking Ordinance please contact Latta White at 610-345-0100.

Message from the Fire Marshal

By **DAWN MACIEJCZYK**

Spring Cleanup for Fire Safety

Although we haven't had much snow this year, the snow is melted, the rain and wind is beginning to subside, the plants are budding and the trees are blooming. Spring is arriving and your thoughts may be turning to that dreaded ritual of spring cleaning. With it comes a timely reminder to keep your home safe from the threat of fire. In an effort to make this "Spring Cleanup" a fire safe one, London Grove Township Fire Marshal, Robert Weer provides the following safety tips:

- ✓ Clean your garage of stored newspapers or other rubbish that can fuel a fire.
- ✓ Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- ✓ To help prevent nuisance alarms, gently vacuum your smoke alarm every six months or as needed.
- ✓ Change batteries in smoke alarms, flashlights and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✓ Never borrow smoke alarm batteries to use for toys or other equipment.
- ✓ Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Keep outdoor debris or dead vegetation away from the house.
- ✓ Properly dispose of oily or greasy rags. If these items must be stored, they should be kept in labeled, sealed, metal containers.
- ✓ If you store gasoline, keep it outside your home in a shed or detached garage. Keep only small quantities in tightly sealed containers. Use gasoline only as a motor fuel- never as a cleaning agent.
- ✓ Use outdoor barbecue grills with caution. Place in a safe area away from building, windows, heating, ventilation and air conditioning units or places with high/dead vegetation.
- ✓ Never use gasoline to start the fire, and don't add charcoal lighter fluid once the fire has started.
- ✓ Use barbecue grills outside only- not under overhangs or balconies, and away from combustibles.
- ✓ Check your propane barbecue grill hose for leaks and cracks; never store propane indoors.



If you have any questions or would like clarification on any fire safety tips please call the Fire Marshal, Robert Weer at 610-345-0100.

SAFETY

Community Risk Reduction Program

By DAWN MACIEJCZYK

Commercial and Life Safety Inspections

The purpose of our annual Commercial and Life Safety inspection program is to provide a safe place for our residents, and those that work in our community, patrons of our commerce, manufacturing, and corporate industries, and our First Responders.

The Fire Marshal is responsible for conducting an annual Commercial and Life Safety Inspection in all businesses, facilities, place of assemble and schools.

The Fire Marshal designs an inspection schedule according to hazard priorities, develops an inspection checklist, and collects and distributes data that will be useful to our first responders. The Township Fire Marshal, Robert Weer conducts these inspections, he is trained and fully certified to inspect for all fire prevention and life safety features in a facility. The inspector will also identify any special operational uses that will require additional review and data to be conveyed to our first responders.

At the completion of each inspection, our department will send the inspected facility a letter of compliance, invoice, and an operational permit (if applicable). The department follows the adopted fee schedule.

As a reminder, parking in front of fire hydrants and in fire lanes is not permitted and may delay our first responders.

For questions on Commercial and Life Safety Inspections please contact the Township Fire Marshal, Robert Weer at 610-345-0100.





Parks and Recreation News

BY ERIC SCHOTT

The London Grove Township Park and Recreation Board (PBR) reorganized at their January meeting. Laura Miller will be assuming the duties of Chairman while Toinette Neilson will continue as Vice Chairman. Audrey Reith and Eric Schott will remain on the Board with Eric Schott assuming the duties of Board Secretary. The Township Manager, Ken Battin, attended this meeting and discussed several issues relevant to Goddard Park particularly funding of park improvement projects and the upcoming federally mandated MS4 which deals with stormwater infrastructure.

Mr. Battin explained that the MS4 requirements deal with stormwater, riparian buffers, and retention ponds and stream bank restoration. Compliance with MS4 may enhance the park on many levels. With regard to park improvement projects there is not much money available at the moment for grant matches but the PRB has been working on shelf ready projects in case a grant presents itself that is within the Township's budget. The Board is also pursuing the possible granting of a 501C3 status so that fund solicitation can be more readily pursued.

The PRB met with representatives from Natural Lands Trust in February to see if they have potential grants. Also in February the Board heard a presentation from Dr. Jeff Butler from the University of Delaware regarding his research on Purple Martins. The project includes capturing/tagging and monitoring the bird's behavior by a solar power transmitter. The university is looking to place a receiving tower somewhere in London Grove Township.

The newly elected supervisor, Christine Alison, attended the January meeting explaining that she wanted to meet all the members of the Township Boards and Commissions and to learn their current business. Mr. Battin also mentioned that the Township had recently purchased 26 acres of land using their Open Space fund monies. One of the properties lies on East Avondale Road and could eventually be used as park land and a trail link. The PRB also put the finishing touches on their new vision and mission statement.





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West Grove, PA 19390

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scheduling donor appointments.

Everything You Need to Know About Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

BY HEALTHLINE.COM

What is Rocky Mountain spotted fever? Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is a bacterial infection spread by a bite from an infected tick. It causes vomiting, a sudden high fever around 102 or 103 degrees, headache abdominal pain, rash, and muscle aches.

RMSF is considered the most serious tick-borne illness in the United States. Though the infection can be treated successfully with antibiotics, it can cause serious damage to internal organs, or even death if it isn't treated right away. You can reduce your risk by avoiding tick bites or promptly removing a tick that has bitten you.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever symptoms- The symptoms of Rocky Mountain spotted fever typically begin between 2 and 14 days after getting a tick bite. Symptoms come on suddenly and usually include:

- High fever, which may persist for 2 to 3 weeks
- Chills
- Muscle Aches
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Poor appetite
- Abdominal Pain

RMSF also causes a rash with small red spots on the wrists, palms, ankles, and soles of the feet. This rash begins 2 to 5 days after the fever and eventually spreads inward towards the torso. After the sixth day of infection, a second rash can develop. It tends to be purple-red, and is a sign that the disease has progressed and become more serious. The goal is to begin treatment before this rash appears.

RMSF can be difficult to diagnose, as the symptoms mimic other illnesses, such as the flu. Although a spotted rash is considered the classic symptom of RMSF, about 10 to 15 percent of people with RMSF don't develop a rash at all. Only about half of people who develop RMSF remember having a tick bite. This makes diagnosing the infection even more difficult.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Transmission- RMSF is transmitted, or spread, through the bite of a tick that's infected with a bacterium known as *Rickettsia rickettsii*. The bacteria spread through your lymphatic system and multiply in your cells. Though RMSF is caused by bacteria, you can only be infected with the bacteria via a tick bite.

There are many different types of ticks. Types that may be vectors, or carriers of RMSF include the:

- American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)
- Rocky Mountain Wood Tick (*Dermacentor Andersoni*)
- Brown Dog Tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)

Everything You Need to Know About Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Continued...

BY HEALTHLINE.COM

Ticks are small arachnids that feed on blood. Once a tick has bitten you, it may draw blood slowly over several days. The longer a tick is attached to your skin, the greater the chance of RMSF infection. Ticks are very small insects- some as small as the head of a pin- so you may never see a tick on your body after it bites you.

RMSF is not contagious and can't be spread from person to person. However, your household dog is also susceptible to RMSF. While you can't get RMSF from your dog, if an infected tick is on your dog's body, the tick can migrate to you while you're holding your pet.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever treatment- Treatment for Rocky Mountain spotted fever involves an oral antibiotic known as doxycycline. It's the preferred drug treatment both children and adults. If you're pregnant, your doctor may prescribe chloramphenicol instead.

The CDC recommends that you start taking the antibiotic as soon as the diagnosis is suspected, even before your doctor receives the laboratory results needed to definitively diagnose you. This is because delay in treating the infection can lead to significant complications. The goal is to begin treatment as soon as possible, ideally within the first five days of infection. Make sure you take the antibiotics exactly the way your doctor or pharmacist described.

If you don't begin receiving treatment within the first five days, you might require intravenous (IV) antibiotics in the hospital. If your disease is severe or you have complications, you may have to stay in the hospital for a longer period of time to receive fluids and be monitored.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever long term effects- If it isn't treated right away, RMSF can cause damage to the lining of your blood vessels tissues, and organs. Complications of RMSF include"

- Inflammation of the brain, known as meningitis, leading to seizures and coma.
- Inflammation of the heart.
- Inflammation of the lungs.
- Kidney Failure.
- Gangrene, or dead body tissue, in the fingers and toes.
- Enlargement of the liver or spleen.
- Death (if not treated)

People who have a severe case of RMSF may end up with long term health problems, including:

- Neurological deficits
- Deafness or hearing loss
- Muscle weakness
- Partial paralysis of one side of the body.



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