Penn Township 228 Clifford Road, Selinsgrove Snyder County, PA

Fall - Winter 2010

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in our newsletter or website, please let us know.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Township receives many complaints from residents regarding neighbors' high grass, abandoned vehicles, dog waste, maintenance of buildings, disposal of garbage/rubbish, unkempt yards, etc. By keeping your property in good order, you save the Township in mailings and yourself possible fines and court fees. It is also the property owner's responsibility to keep trees, shrubbery, basketball hoops, etc from overhanging the edge of the street. This is necessary to ensure the safety of those activities that must occur close to the curb, such as snowplowing, leaf collection, street sweeping and paving, and trash collection. Thank you to all of those who continue to keep their property in great shape, thereby making Penn Township a better community.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our recent survey in reference to large item clean-up In the Township...

In the last newsletter an annual large item cleanup was mentioned and we asked for input from our residents with their opinion on whether or not the Township should provide a large item cleanup day. Surprisingly, the response was light. But in spite of the low number who responded in favor of a large item clean-up, we're guessing an actual large item cleanup day(s) would get an overwhelming response. The only resistance anyone could possibly justify is... paying for it. So this time we pose this question?

Should Penn Township spend anywhere from \$10,000 - \$20,000 for a large item cleanup?

It's a little tough to determine the true cost until we actually do it, but after talking to neighboring municipalities who provide this service, it seems the numbers mentioned could be in range of actual costs. It costs Selinsgrove Borough, for example, approximately \$10K, but to cover this service, the Borough includes a \$10 recycling fee to the water bills every quarter for each establishment. This fee basically covers the cost of their large item clean-up. Because Penn Township does not assess any fees or have a per capita tax, the expense of a clean up would have to come from the general fund, as in Monroe Twp where they spend around \$18K per year. The scary thought is, because the Township has not held an event like this in years we could truly be overwhelmed with "stuff". Whereas, in the Borough or Monroe Twp., because they do it every year, we would guess most people have whittled down their "junk" and the large item clean up days are not as heavy as they were at the start of their programs.

Let us know what you think: Call: 374-4778 e-mail: penntwp@ptd.net or bpenntownship@yahoo.com

www.penn-township.net What's on our website?

Minutes - Meeting minutes from the Board of Supervisors as well as Planning Commission are posted.

Current happenings - On the home page, we try to post any items of interest, such as special recycling events.

Applications - Zoning Permit applications, required for any construction on your property, such as sheds, decks, porches, patios, pools, garages, new homes, etc. If you have any questions, contact the Township office at 374-4778 or Tom Snyder, Zoning Officer at 374-9167. Driveway Permit applications, required to connect a private drive onto a township road, usually during construction of a new home, Transient Merchant Permit applications, Amusement Tax Permit applications, Conditional Use applications (some land uses require permission from the Supervisors) and Variance applications.

Recycling information - where, when, and do's & don'ts. For info, see Page 6. **Calendar of events** - Meetings are posted here, pavilion rentals, office holidays, happenings at the park, etc.

PENNSYLVANIA FACTS....WHO KNEW?!

You know that Pennsylvania's known as the Keystone State. And you probably know that the State flower is the Mountain Laurel. And that the state was settled by William Penn in 1643; he named it after his father, Sir William Penn. You may even know that PA has 45,888 sq miles and the state tree is the Hemlock. But, did you know.....

- The State beverage is milk.
- PA is 310 miles wide (East to West) and 180 miles (North to South).
- Largest county is Lycoming County, which is larger than Rhode Island.
- PA contains 45,000 miles of rivers and streams.
- PA also contains over 55,000 farms which in include over 9 million acres of farmland......Wow!
- Indiana County is the Christmas Tree Capital of the World.
- There are two Counties which have no traffic lights: Forest County and Perry County
- The State dog is the Great Dane and the State fish is the brook trout.
- The first daily newspaper was published in Philadelphia on September 21, 1784.
- The first automobile service station opened in Pittsburgh in 1913.
- Philadelphia was once the nation's capital.

Other Pennsylvania "firsts":

Hospital, Library, Zoo, motion-picture theater, television broadcast, radio broadcast, paper mill, druggist, cable television, and many more.

For these items and more, check out the wealth of information we found on www.infoplease.com, www.50states.com, and www.pavisnet.com

THANKSGIVING HISTORY

We've all heard about the first Thanksgiving observed by the Pilgrims of the Plymouth Colony in 1621 to celebrate the autumn harvest. They even invited the local Wampanoag Indians. But how did it become a holiday?

Throughout the colonies, days of thanksgiving were celebrated after fall harvests. At times, the days were simply a day of prayer and no feasts were had. None of the colonies celebrated at the same time until October 1777. George Washington was the first president to declare the holiday in 1789. But no particular day was set.

By the mid 1800's, many states observed a Thanksgiving holiday. Sarah Hale, poet and editor, began lobbying for a national Thanksgiving holiday. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln, looking for ways to unite the nation, and at Miss Hale's urging, gave his Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1863, declaring the last Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving.

In 1939, 1940 and 1941, Franklin D Roosevelt proclaimed Thanksgiving the third Thursday in November, in an effort to lengthen the Christmas shopping season. Much controversy followed, and in 1941, Congress passed a joint resolution decreeing that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November, where we still celebrate it today.

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE BEARS!

This time of year, bears are preparing to eat enough food for them to hibernate for winter. They may come closer to residential areas to hunt for food. Here are some tips on how to stay safe by keeping bears at bay:

- Do not feed wildlife. Food placed outside, even in bird feeders, become "bear magnets". Restrict bird feeding to late November through late March, when bears den. Avoid foods particularly attractive for bears, such as sunflower seeds and suet.
- Don't put garbage out until pick-up day. Don't throw table scraps outside for animals. Don't add fruit or vegetables to your compost pile. Clean your barbeque grill regularly.
- If a bear does show up, stay calm. From a safe distance, make noise and let the bear know it is not welcome.
- If a dog is barking or a cat is clawing at the door to get in side, try to determine why. Do so cautiously, turning on outside lights and making noise.

-Courtesy of PA Township News

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

Our road crew will be out there again, responding to any and all winter maintenance events appropriately. This could include plowing and applying anti-skid material, or a combination of both, to all Township roads as necessary. If you have any concerns about a particular Township road, please call the Roadmaster at 374-4258. Please be patient and take into consideration the time it takes to cover the entire Township.

AND...

To avoid a fine or create a hazardous situation during a snow event, all vehicles must be removed from Township streets and roads. Clearing the streets of all vehicles will allow for safe and efficient clearing of the snow. Do not shovel or plow snow from your driveway back onto any road whether it is a state or township road. <u>This creates dangerous situations and is not allowed.</u>

For any questions regarding state roads, contact PennDot at 372-9100.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Beginning the first week of January, Christmas trees will be picked up curbside.

TREES CAN NOT BE IN BAGS.

All decorations must be removed, including lights, ornaments, tinsel, and even tree stands. Believe it or not, some people do leave the tree stands on! Any tree with decorations remaining will not be picked up.

Residents may take their "undecorated" Christmas tree to the compost site at any time.

WHO ARE YOUR TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS?

William J Moyer, Supervisor/Chairman	Robin Bieber, Secretary/Treasurer
25 M&M Lane	228 Clifford Road
Freeburg, PA 17827	Selinsgrove, PA 17870
Term Expires 12/31/2013	374-4778
Frederick R Ulrich, Supervisor/Vice-Chairman	Tom Snyder, Zoning Officer
405 Route 204	374-9167
Selinsgrove, PA 17870	Available Mornings 7—11am
Term Expires 12/31/2015	Other times by appointment
Brian Wentzel, Supervisor/Roadmaster 435 Route 35 Selinsgrove, PA 17870 Term Expires 12/31/2011	Brenda Moyer, Planning Commission Secretary Recycling Coordinator 228 Clifford Road Selinsgrove, PA 17870 374-4778
Ron Zeiders, Tax Collector	Penn Twp Municipal Authority
PO Box 452	PO Box 155
Selinsgrove, PA 17870	Selinsgrove, PA 17870
374-8401	374-8256

Penn Township Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 4:30pm

The Supervisors meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the Municipal Building. If that particular date is a holiday or an election day, call the Township office or use our great new website for the correct date. There is also a posting of all meeting dates on the bulletin board in front of the Township building. The meetings are open to the public and we welcome your questions and comments. If you wish to address the Board, you may speak under Public Comment, which may be limited to five minutes. Or, you can request to be placed on the agenda. The deadline for any requests or items to be reviewed at the meeting is the Friday before the meeting at 4:30PM.



The Township Office will be closed on the following 2010 dates: November 2nd for Election Day, November 25th, 26th, December 24th, December 31st.

Happy Holidays!

PENN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Dan Kuruna, Chairman Michael Savidge, Vice-Chairman Michael Kuhns William Moyer Brian Wentzel Shane Kerstetter Ben Moyer

The Planning Commission is made up of seven members who are appointed by the Supervisors and serve four-year terms. They meet the fourth Monday of each month. If that particular date is a holiday, call the Township office for the correct date or check the posting of all meeting dates on the bulletin board in front of the Township building. Items to be reviewed at Planning Commission meetings must be received by the Wednesday before the meeting. Land development fees are \$200.00 for review. Sub-Division fees are \$60.00 plus \$20 for each lot including the residual lot. Applications can be found on our website or you can pick one up at the Township Office.

PENN TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD

Ken Herman, Chairman Joan Lindow Lewis Shaffer Robert Cravitz, Solicitor

The Zoning Hearing Board meets as needed to review zoning variance requests. What is a zoning variance request? A variance is needed for any project which does not conform to the Penn Township Zoning Ordinance. For example, you want to build a detached garage, and based on the fact that you live in an Agriculture Conservation zone, you need a 15 foot setback, but you only have seven feet. You would need a variance. A setback is the distance between the edge of your project and your property line. Applications can be found on our website or you can pick one up at the Township office. There is a fee of \$250. Hearings must be advertised, are open to the public, and are attended by the Zoning Hearing Board, Solicitor, Zoning Officer, and the applicant.

In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back. - Charlie Brown

NUMBERS FREQUENTLY REQUESTED

DEP - 1(800)541-2050 - Emergency Hotline Drivers Center, 1015 Route 522 - 374-8320 Daily Item - 286-5671 PA State Police - 374-5793 - Non-Emergency PA Game Commission - 1(814)643-1831 Penn Dot - 372-9100 Snyder County Times - 837-6065 Transportation for people with disabilities 1(877)877-9021 or 522-1390

Use this number for burn ban Information

Snyder County Emergency Management Non-Emergency - 372-0826

SNYDER COUNTY INFORMATION

Snyder County Commissioners - 837-4208 Snyder County Elections - Pat Nace - 837-4286 Snyder County District Attorney - 837-4233 Snyder County Sheriff - 837-3311 Snyder County Tax Assessment - 837-4216 Snyder County Tax Claim - 837-4219 Snyder County Dog Warden - 837-1915 Snyder County Domestic Relations - 837-4228 Snyder County Veterans Affairs - 837-4277 Snyder County Housing Authority - 837-3979



Penn Township Tax Collector Ron Zeiders PO Box 452 Selinsgrove, PA 17870 374-8401

Call Ron with questions on your Real Estate, Per Capita, or Fire Hydrant Tax. With questions regarding previous tax years, contact the Snyder County Tax Claim office at 837-4219.

Mobile Homes

If you are moving a mobile home from Penn Township, you are required to purchase a Moving Permit from Ron. Cost is \$2.00

East Snyder Park

It was another productive year at the park with lots of improvements being made and many volunteer hours given. Bids were advertised for the sanitary sewer extension and awarded to Fairchild Bros. Construction. This installation should be completed within the next 30 days... just one step closer to real restrooms. But, before we actually see these "real" restrooms, a pump station will need to be installed. This is being proposed for the spring if funding allows.

We would be remiss if we did not thank Pete and Cookie DeWire for their ongoing contribution of time and effort to see the success of the park. Thank you both! Also much thanks to the East Snyder Regional Recreation Association (the Board of Directors for ESP); Don Harnum, Mark Johnson, Beth Kapsar, Malcolm Fleming, Jim Taylor, Tracy Hepner, Bruce Teats, Tim Laubscher, and Pete DeWire. This board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm and the public is welcome. You all have been doing a fantastic job of keeping things rolling along.

Some of the other contributors so far in 2010 are The Mustard Seed, DB Construction, Karen Thompson, Steve Varias, Jeff Cook, Albert Heimbach & sons, Lowe's, SRS Electric, Eric Johnson, Greg Brouse, Elden Heimbach, Eastern Industries, Ryan Boyer, Donnie Rowe, Steve Bogush, Union County Probation Department, Snyder County Probation Department, Jeremy Beaver, Corey Furman, Wal-Mart, and ASP Services.

The Ken and Dora Battram Pavilion

...located in the East Snyder Park

This pavilion is open to the public, but can be reserved by calling the Township Office at 374-4778. There is a \$35. non-refundable reservation fee.

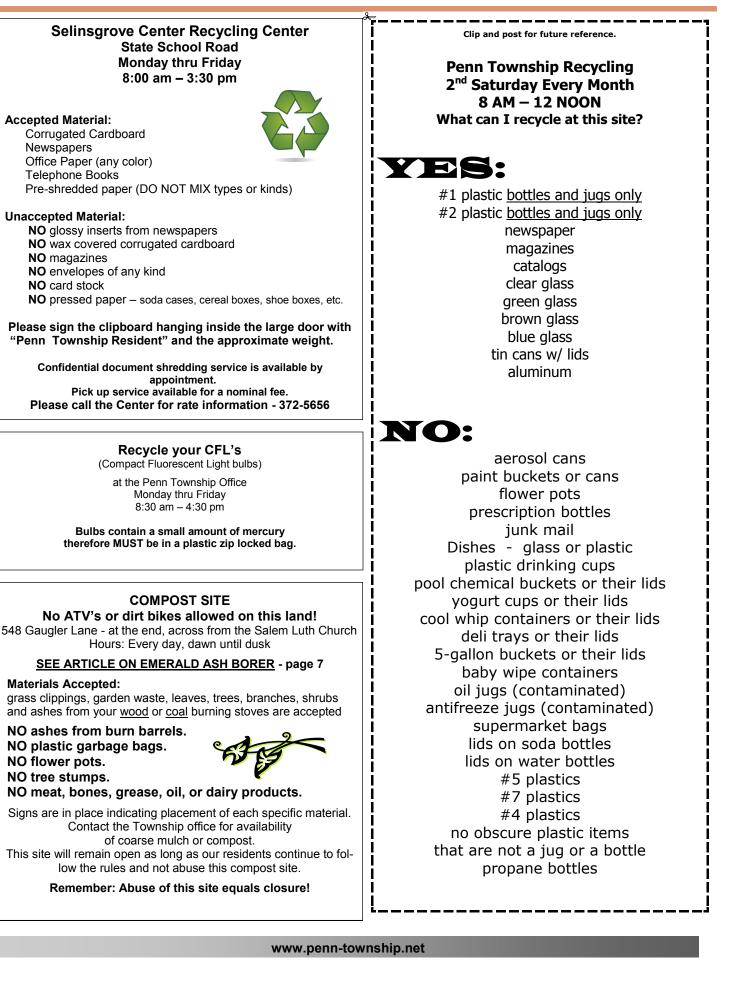
20' X 40' pavilion tables with seating for @ 50 2 grills water and restrooms nearby

www.eastsnyderpark.com ... check it out!

Animals killed on the roadways

The Township receives many calls regarding animals killed in the roadways. After contacting the PA Game Commission we learned that they will only pick up deer and bear from township roads and neighborhood streets. You can call them at (814) 643-1831. Call Penn Dot at 372-9100 for state road carcass collections. The PA Game Commission suggests anyone removing dead animals from the roadway, follow these tips:

Never use your *bear* (get it?) hands, always wear gloves. To dispose of a carcass, dig a hole and bury, totally incinerate or triple bag and put it with your garbage.



Flooding and You!

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States. Some of the frequent local causes for flooding are:

New Development - New development can change natural drainage and create brand new flood risks. New buildings, parking lots and roads mean less pervious surface to absorb excess rainfall.

Spring Thaw - Still frozen land prevents melting snow or rainfall from seeping into the ground. Each cubic foot of compacted snow contains gallons of water.

Heavy Rains - The northeast is at high risk due to heavy rains produced from Nor'easters.

Flash Floods - Rapid flooding of low lying areas caused by intense rainfall can happen in less than six hours. Flash floods are the #1 weather-related killer in the U.S. since they can roll boulders, tear out trees and destroy buildings and bridges.

Average flood insurance policy costs less than \$570 per year.

The following shows the estimated costs of flood damage. This information comes from the official website of the National Flood Insurance Program. www.floodsmart.gov

Amount of water inside your dwelling	Estimated value of damage in dollars
, ,	
1" - 4"	\$7,800
5" - 8"	\$11,480
9" - 12"	\$18,930
13" - 15"	\$22,235
16" - 18"	\$26,285

Stormwater - What is it?

We've all seen storm drains labeled "Save the Bay" meaning the Chesapeake Bay. Have you ever really thought about what that means? Are you familiar with the term "stormwater pollution"? Polluted stormwater runoff flows over driveways, along and across roadways, lawns and sidewalks. This moving water picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This stormwater may flow into a storm drain or storm sewer system and then directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal waters. Anything that enters into a storm sewer system is discharged "untreated" into the bodies of water we all use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. Locally, we can all practice some healthier habits to keep common pollutants off the ground, out of stormwater runoff, therefore, protecting our local waters, the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. To follow are a few basic ideas that will help in alleviating polluted stormwater runoff.

- Using a commercial carwash or washing your car on your lawn, rather then the driveway will minimize the dirty, soapy runoff into storm drains.
- Leaks from vehicles should be repaired ASAP and any spilled fluids should be cleaned up immediately. Preferably with an absorbent material such as sand or kitty litter and disposed of properly. DO NOT rinse these spills into storm drains.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. DO NOT dump down storm drains or dispose of in your trash.
- 4. With new construction you might consider reducing the amount of paved area and directing downspouts away from any paved surfaces and onto lawns. This will help increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.
- 5. Clean up pet waste and dispose of properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into storm drains and eventually end up into local bodies of water.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and avoid using if the forecast is calling for rain, otherwise these chemicals are easily washed into your local steam.

Flood Information

Penn Township continues to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), which requires the Township to be re-certified annually. Continued participation in this program allows business owners and all residents of Penn Township to purchase flood insurance at reduced premiums in recognition of the efforts made by the Township to lessen the impact of flooding. With our continued efforts, FEMA has designated Penn Township as a Class 8 municipality, allowing for 15% reduction on flood insurance to those in the floodplain and a 5% reduction for flood insurance for non-floodplain residents.

Any home in Penn Township can be covered by flood insurance, but don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance; there is a 30-day waiting period for coverage to take effect. Talk to your agent today.

As part of the CRS recertification, we send letters to local realtors, insurance agencies, and lenders. The letters make them aware that Penn Township participates in the CRS Program. Another part of the recertification involves making our community aware of flood hazards through letters to those living in the flood plain and repetitive loss areas. These letters inform residents on Flood Safety, Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains, Flood Insurance w/ Mandatory Purchase Requirements and Federal Financial Aid, Property Protection and much more.

The complete "Flooding and You" information has been included at least once annually in our Township newsletter. If you need a copy of this, please call the Township Office or e-mail Brenda at bpenntownship@yahoo.com

Penn Township annually updates the names, addresses, and phone numbers of our "need to call/evacuation" list in case of an emergency. Our Zoning Officer also enforces the Flood Plain and Storm Water Management Ordinances. Contact our office for permit requirements for floodplain development. Our Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), along with the Penn Township road crew have over time, identified areas with chronic flooding and drainage problems and continue to work to improve these areas. You can help by keeping ditches and drainage areas on your property open and free of debris.

Call the Township Roadmaster to report a problem with debris, fallen trees or anything else that would hinder water flow (374-4258).

Penn Township keeps a list of resident names and addresses of properties located in areas at greatest risk for flooding. If flooding is eminent and evacuation is required, these residents would be notified using various methods which include television and radio, telephone, knocking on doors and/or driving

through these at-risk areas and announcing with a bullhorn to evacuate. Want to know if you are on the list, please call our office at 374-4778.



Selinsgrove Community Garden in Penn Township

The Selinsgrove Community Garden is located on University Ave across from East Snyder Park. This is on state land previously farmed by the Selinsgrove Center and is managed by the PA Cooperative Extension in Union County and the Dept. of Ag. The gardening season of 2010 was another success with about 58 plots leased for the growing season.

Pending improvements for this fall may include adding sod in the walk ways between the gardens to allow for mud free access. In 2011 you will also see the addition of more handicap plots and these plots will be located closer to the parking lot. A submission has been made to the Dept. of Ag. to fence the entire seven acre area. This is in hopes to keep the deer out; although I've heard deer somehow find their way to those "greener pastures". The garden has provided some great opportunities. Did you know a preschool has leased a plot for the last two seasons and use this as an educational tool for their school? Produce from two other plots was used to supply fresh vegetables throughout the season to Haven Ministries in Sunbury.

- Here are some of the basic garden facts and need to know information:
 - applications are available at the Township office or on the Township website
 alste are 20' X 20' and \$10 application by mail w/ application to: DSCE in Union
 - plots are 30' X 30' and \$10 each payable by mail w/ application to: PSCE in Union Co Svc Acct
 - yes, you may rent more then one plot
 - limited storage available for tools
 - two points of water on-site
 - you do not have to be a Penn Township resident to lease a plot
 - plots must be cleared of stakes (especially metal) and debris by end of October in preparation for final cleanup
 - dawn to dusk gardening
 - plots and plot locations are on a "first come, first served" basis

For a complete and detailed list of the "rules to garden by", check the Penn Township website at www.penn-township.net, call or stop by the Township office.

You may also contact the Cooperative Extension Office at 966-8194.

Kickoff for the 2011 growing season is slated for April 1, 2011



Emerald Ash Borer...have you heard of it?

The emerald ash borer is a metallic green, flat headed, ½ inch long x 1/8 inch wide, wood-boring beetle with stealth-like behavior patterns that make it extremely difficult to detect. The beetle is native to eastern Asia and China and believed to have traveled to the US in the '90's in wooden shipping crates. It has no known predators but woodpeckers will eat them. If not managed, the beetle threatens to devastate the ash species in North America. Emerald Ash Borers are as close as Mifflin County and recently an outbreak has been discovered in the New Columbia area.

Did you notice the purple triangular shaped boxes hanging along our PA roads and beyond over the summer?

These are called "prism purple panel traps" and were used to trap and collect the beetles. Resembling a box kite, these traps are three-sided and coated with nontoxic glue, with each panel measuring about 14 inches by 24 inches. Each trap is baited with a Manuka oil lure in the center. This lure is actually 80 percent Manuka oil, the essential oil extracted from the Manuka tree, a New Zealand tea tree, and 20 percent phoebe oil, an extract of Brazilian walnut. This lure mimics chemicals emitted by stressed ash trees. The outside of each panel is covered by Pestick glue to catch adults attracted to the trap. Pestick is an extremely sticky, non -toxic to humans and clear, insect glue. Clear allows the insect attracting purple color to show through. Traps were monitored throughout the summer with the lure replaced once in late July. Beetles captured on the traps were collected during the season and sent to labs for identification. Effective August 9, 2010 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding signed an order of quarantine expanding PA's EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) Interior Quarantine to include a total of 43 PA counties. This does include Snyder and neighboring counties of Centre, Union, Northumberland, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, and Dauphin and beyond.

The considerable quarantine expansion was based on new detections in PA, coupled with new detections and quarantines in neighboring states and a desire to consolidate the quarantined area.

The quarantine is designed to help slow the spread of the beetle. Pennsylvania's quarantine restricts the movement of ash nursery stock, green lumber and any other ash material, including logs, stumps, roots and branches, and all wood chips from the quarantined area. Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood firewood - including ash, oak, maple and hickory - are considered quarantined. Infested trees cannot simply be thrown out or mulched. To insure the pest is not passed on trees should be double chipped and ideally, burned. If you think see the emerald ash borer, report the sighting to the Agriculture Department's toll free pest hotline at (866) 253-7189. For additional information log onto www.agriculture.state.pa.us and search "emerald ash borer".

PENN TOWNSHIP 228 Clifford Road Selinsgrove, PA 17870

PHONE - 374-4778 ROADMASTER - 374-4258 FAX - 374-4931 EMAIL - penntwp@ptd.net WEBSITE - www.penn-township.net



2010 LEAF COLLECTION

Beginning Monday, November 1st - Residents who wish to participate may place their leaves in piles next to the edge of the road, but not in the road. Township crews typically cover every Township property 2 to 3 times during leaf collection season. Depending on the volume, it may take a week between visits.

Feel free to call the Township office if you think you've been missed.

Wet or dry, fallen leaves present a driving challenge and can be as slippery and dangerous as ice or snow. Use extra caution, especially when wet.

Leaf piles - Don't drive through piles of leaves, as they can obscure potholes, curbs, street markings, and even present a fire hazard should leaves contact a hot muffler or tailpipe. **Warning:** Children love playing and hiding in the leaves. Without caution, a simple moment of play could turn tragic.

Shorter days - With the sunset coming earlier, the days get shorter, and nights get longer. Watch for children and animals playing in the dark and walkers along the roadway. If you are a walker, wear reflective clothing, and even carry a glow stick.

Collection Tips

No bags

- DO NOT mix tree limbs, grass, shrubs, hedge trimmings, concrete block, brick or any other foreign materials in leaf piles. The leaves will not be collected if these are present
- Do not place leaves <u>in</u> the roadways, but <u>along</u> the roadway