

RAPHO REPORTER

Fall/Winter 2013

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Matt Gohn

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RAPHO RECYCLES

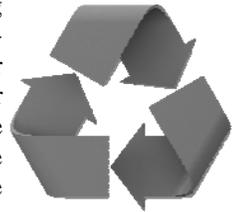
According to the 2010 census, Rapho Township's official population is 10,442. Since our population now exceeds 10,000, we are required by the state's Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act 101 to add provisions to our mandatory recycling program. The Township is taking advantage of this required change to take an overall look at how our community's trash and recyclables are managed. The Township is preparing to accept bids for a **contracted trash and recycling collector**, which we believe will offer significant savings for those property owners who would like to participate in the contract. Those residents who would like to continue with their own hauler will be able to opt out of the contract, but they will still be required to have **curbside recycling** and demonstrate that they are properly disposing of their trash.

Through our new program, recycling will be required at least once every other week. We expect that the contract will include **single-stream recycling**. This is a very convenient way to recycle many different materials in one container. Aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles, newspapers, cardboard and office paper can all be mixed together, and residents often find that they end their week with more in their recycling containers than in their trash cans.

One of the biggest changes for our residents will be the new requirement to recycle yard/leaf waste. Yard/leaf waste is defined as all garden residues, leaves, shrubbery, and tree trimmings. Yard/leaf waste does NOT include grass. Yard/leaf waste can be recycled by composting it at your property or by delivering it to a recycling facility. To make this law easier for our residents to comply with, the Township has been awarded a grant through Act 101 in the amount of \$250,000 to assist us in implementing our recycling plan. This grant will allow us to construct a **yard and leaf waste recycling drop-off facility at the Township building**. The Township's contracted trash hauler will also collect bundled and bagged yard waste seasonally.

The exact rules and regulations of both the hauling contract and the Township recycling facility

are still being determined. Once these details are finalized, **a flyer will be mailed to the owner of every property with a single family dwelling**. The flyer will provide detailed information about what will be included with the contract and an estimated cost per property for trash and recycling collection. Residents can then determine if they would like to join the contract, or opt out of the contract and keep their current trash and recycling hauler. Properties with multi-family dwellings (four or more residential units) or commercial uses will not be able to participate in the Township contract. Those properties should already be recycling on site.



Residents who opt out of the contract will be required to document how they have disposed of their trash and recycling, either by subscription with a permitted hauler or by self-hauling their trash to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority. Haulers who are permitted in the Township will provide us with a list of customers, and the Township will cross-reference those lists to be certain that all property owners are complying with the recycling law.

Other municipalities have found that **a single hauler program can offer their residents significant savings in collection costs**. The current average cost per household for single hauler programs in Lancaster County is approximately \$196 per year. Single hauler programs reduce truck traffic, which has many benefits to the community. A single hauler means fewer trucks, which results in less wear and tear on our roads, less noise due to multiple companies' trucks passing through neighborhoods in a week, and more consistency in the way trash and recycling are placed at curbside and collected.

Act 101 also **prohibits burning any recyclable materials**, including yard/leaf waste, or household trash. The only exemptions from open burning requirements allowed by the Department of Environmental Protection are:

RAPHO TOWNSHIP PARK, A VIEW FROM ABOVE



This photo was captured during an aerial inspection of the Township in May of 2013. Rapho Park is located on Strickler Road in the Development Triangle.

(RAPHO RECYCLES - Cont'd from Pg. 1)

- Campfire for organized recreational purposes or cooking fire
- Outdoor furnaces for heating buildings
- Fire maintained for the sole purpose of clearing and grubbing
- Fire set in conjunction with the production of agricultural commodities in their unmanufactured state on the premises of a farm operation (100 feet or more from any building or structure). This might include items such as sisal bale rope, burlap bags, or paper seed bags. No burning of plastics is allowed.
- Fire set for burning paper only, when paper refuse results from normal occupancy of no more than 2 dwelling units



The Township greatly appreciates our residents' interest in our new recycling program. Stay tuned for more details!

THINGS TO DO AT THE MANHEIM LIBRARY

December 17 – "Name that Tune and cookie testing – Holiday style"

January 28 – Lisa High: "Hats!" Journey back in time to see the evolution of that essential accessory – Hats!

Visit the Manheim Community Library Programs at 15 East High St, Manheim to sign up or call 665-6700. More information and programs may be found on line at www.ManheimLibrary.org.

2014 BUDGET NARRATIVE

The draft 2014 budget is currently being considered by the Board of Supervisors. The Township will begin its third year with a real estate tax rate set at 1.75 mills. With the increasing property assessment figures, revenue generated by the real estate tax is estimated to be \$1,391,608. Real estate transfer tax is expected to generate \$234,000 in 2014. Revenue from the Local Services Tax is estimated at \$148,000, and Earned Income Tax is anticipated to generate \$1,250,000. The total tax revenue budgeted is \$3,023,608.

Budgeted revenue for all building and land development fees is \$84,000. The Township's permit fee schedule will be revised, with increased fees and required permits to better cover administrative and inspection costs. Total fees to be collected from activities at Rapho Park are budgeted at \$11,000. The total general fund budgeted income is \$3,414,302.

On the expenditures side of the general fund budget, computer consulting has been budgeted at \$33,500, as we plan to purchase new building and zoning permitting software. Other technology costs include the maintenance of our municipal website, which is in development to go on line early in 2014.

2014 will be the third year of the Township's police contract with Manheim Borough, with the total contracted amount slightly higher than in Year 2, at \$871,503. The total budgeted cost of fire protection for our three volunteer fire companies is \$435,250, which is 1% higher than in 2013.

We have projected costs relating to our stormwater management planning at \$25,000. The total budget for general highway expenses, including wages and benefits, is \$405,453. The total budget for highway maintenance and repairs is \$180,000, unchanged from 2013. Total recreation expenses are estimated at \$84,138.

The Township is increasing contributions to both the Mount Joy and Manheim libraries by 2%. Major highway construction projects are budgeted in the capital reserve fund, for which the Township has developed a five-year improvement plan extending through 2018. General funds to be used toward capital projects in 2013 total \$536,200. The total general fund expenses are \$3,411,981.

The general fund, state fund, and capital reserve fund budgets, along with the capital improvement plan and a more detailed budget narrative are available for review at the Township office or on line at raphotownship.com.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Township Office - 665-3827

County Control - 911

Manheim Borough Police non-emergency
(717) 665-2481

Sewage Enforcement Officer - 653-1008

MEETING DATES AND TIMES

Board of Supervisors—1st & 3rd Thurs, 7:30 pm

BOS Work Session—7:30 am Tues prior to Thurs
BOS meeting which follows the PC meeting

Planning Commission — First Mon at 7 pm

Zoning Hearing Board—First Tues at 7:30 pm

OPEN BURNING FACTS

Open burning is a controversial topic among communities. There are those who favor it, feeling it is a right to place a burn barrel and burn trash. Those opposed are concerned with pollution and health concerns such as respiratory problems.



Often items are burned that leave unpleasant, unhealthy and annoying fumes, such as plastics.

Facts show that only 90 PA communities out of 689 have complete bans on all outdoor burning, including yard trimmings and outdoor furnaces. However, statistics show a 6.8% decrease in the occurrence of illegal

dumps when all outdoor burning is completely banned.

Here are some interesting facts about burning not commonly known:

- Burning releases at least seven known cancer-causing agents into the air, including one believed to be a major factor in lung cancer.
- An EPA study found that one burn barrel may release as many toxic chemicals as a large municipal incinerator.
- Children absorb up to 6 times more toxins from by-products of burn barrels than adults would from the same air.
- Open burning has been linked to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses.
- Vinyl is extremely dangerous when burned. Hydrogen chloride gas is produced that combines with water to create hydrochloric acid in human lungs.

Give the Gift of a Manheim Community Pool Membership!

From December 1—31, 2013, the following season pass rates apply for **Manheim, Penn, & Rapho residents:**

Single - \$132

Double - \$194

Family (4) - \$239

Senior Citizen - 40% off single

Each additional person - \$25

Call Manheim Borough at 665-2461 for more info or stop by at 15

E. High Street, Manheim, 8am-4:30pm



A REMINDER FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

Have you paid your County/Municipal Real Estate Tax?

If you live in Pleasant View Estates, Covey Run, Willow Creek, Green Park & Elm Tree Developments, have you paid your Street Light Assessment?

All bills are due and payable to Melva J Kready, Tax Collector by December 31, 2013, after which they will be turned over to Lancaster County Tax Claim or Rapho Township.

Did You Know.....

If you own a business or are self-employed within Rapho Township and earn \$12,000 or more per year in gross wages, you are required by law to pay the Local Services Tax of \$52. It is important that you register your business with Rapho Township. If you have any questions, please contact Melva Kready at 665-3827.

Disposing of Covered Devices and Household Hazardous Waste

Numerous materials used in the home, garage and garden are considered household hazardous waste (HHW). They can cause serious safety and health problems in transportation and for disposal facilities. The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority's (LCSWMA) HHW Facility, located at 1299 Harrisburg Pike in Lancaster, accepts qualifying items for **FREE** from Lancaster County residents. Operating hours are Monday – Friday from 7:00am-4:00pm and Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm.



Items accepted at the HHW Facility:

- * Adhesives
- * Automotive fluids (5 gallon container max)
- * Batteries, including automotive and household
- * Cell phones
- * Chemistry sets
- * Covered devices, which include desktop computers, laptops, monitors, computer peripherals (keyboard, mouse, printer and speakers), televisions and e-readers. Limit of 10 total items per customer, per day.
- * Cooking and frying oils (5 gallon container max)
- * Fire extinguishers
- * Floor and furniture polish
- * Fuel, including kerosene, gasoline and propane
- * Household cleaners
- * Lawn treatments, including herbicides and pesticides
- * Mercury containing items (max of 30 per month), incl. ballasts, fluorescent bulbs, thermostats and thermometers
- * Paint, rust inhibitors, stains, turpentine and thinners
- * Photographic and pool chemicals

Important Reminders:

- * Appliances may be disposed of for a fee.
- * Empty containers from paint and other items that previously contained liquids may be disposed of as regular trash.
- * Household batteries should not be thrown away in your trash. Bring your household batteries to the HHW Facility or you may use the orange plastic battery collection bags provided by LCSWMA to fill and place for your trash hauler during regular trash pick-up.
- * Mercury-containing items are limited to 30 items per month. When you bring a mercury-containing item to the HHW Facility, ask for a free digital thermometer in exchange as a thank you.
- * All deliveries of oil, whether automotive or cooking/frying oil, may not exceed a 5 gallon container.



Visit www.lcswma.org for more information and a list of alternatives to household hazardous waste products. You do not need to make an appointment.

RAPHO TOWNSHIP

971 N COLEBROOK ROAD
MANHEIM PA 17545
Phone: 717-665-3827 Fax: 717-665-7685

Sara Gibson - Township Manager
manager@raphotownship.com
Chris Weatherby - Administrative Assistant
chris@raphotownship.com
Dave Eggert - Zoning Officer
zoning@raphotownship.com
Melva Kready - Tax Collector
melva@raphotownship.com
John Haldeman - Public Works Director
roadmaster@raphotownship.com

Presort
insignia

Visit our website at
www.raphotownship.com

CCWA—Everyone Lives Downstream

Have you taken the “**Tour de Chiques**”? The Tour de Chiques is a guided driving tour that will lead you through seven locations in Penn Township, Manheim Borough, and Rapho Township, and is sponsored by the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance.

The Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance (CCWA) was founded in 2001 with a mission to “promote good stewardship of the land within the Chiques Watershed in order to protect and preserve the Chiques Creek for our present community and for future generations.” Check out the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance’s website at chiquescreekwatershed.org to find directions and narration telling the story of each site in our watershed.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a specific body of water, whether a stream, pond, lake, river or ocean. A watershed area can be as large as many states or as small as your backyard. Everyone lives in a watershed.

WHERE IS THE CHIQUES CREEK WATERSHED?

The Chiques Creek Watershed covers approximately 126 square miles, nearly all of which is within Lancaster County. Beginning in Lebanon County, the Chiques Creek flows 31 miles to its confluence with the Susquehanna River near Marietta Borough. Six townships (East Hempfield, Mount Joy, Penn, Rapho, West Cornwall, & West Hempfield) and two boroughs (Manheim & Mount Joy) contain areas within the Chiques Creek Watershed. The Chiques is listed by the Department of Environmental Protection as impaired. Get involved to help improve our water quality!



Organizers of CCWA’s Watershed Expo on June 18 at the Lancaster Liederkrantz are thankful to all who attended. We hope to make the Expo an annual event.

Other recent CCWA activities included an educational table at the Manheim Farm Show and a stream clean-up at Mummau and Logan Parks in October. CCWA meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Rapho Township building. Our next meeting is January 8.

Fish print t-shirts sponsored by the Lancaster County Conservation District displayed at the 2013 CCWA Watershed Expo.

