

RAPHO REPORTER

Fall 2015

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YARD WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY GROWING



Residents who have visited the yard waste recycling facility at the Township building have certainly observed our biggest challenge — it fills up fast! When we began construction of the facility in the spring of 2014, we had no idea how popular it would become. Residents were looking for an easy and environmentally friendly way to dispose of leaves and woody debris.

We quickly realized we would need more space to keep up with the demand for the facility. The Township was fortunate to be able to purchase some land adjacent to the complex, and we began designing an area that would expand our existing recycling facilities and provide additional space for our Public Works Department, as well. Using a creative design to manage the stormwater running off this new impervious area, we have been able to create a new space that will be easier for property owners to move around in, and simpler for our staff to maintain. The new expanded facility (pictured above) is nearly complete and we are looking forward to having it fully functioning by the end of 2015.

Because we rely on an outside contractor to grind the yard waste delivered to the site, we needed more space to store the materials between mulching days. The larger facility will allow us a separate storage area closed off from the publicly accessible bins. This will enable our staff to move materials out of the drop-off bins from time to time so that residents dropping off their yard waste have more room to maneuver their vehicles.

Another new feature to be added to the facility is a fence with a locking gate. The facility will still

be fully accessible to Rapho Township residents seven days per week from dawn to dusk. Having a fenced area delineated on the property will direct traffic flow, prevent unauthorized use of the facility, and add security to the site. The current facility is already monitored with security cameras, and a few more security measures will be added with the gate.

At this time there will continue to be no fee charged to Rapho Township property owners to drop off materials at our site, even once the gate is installed. Any property owner showing proof of residency will be able to purchase a remote entry key fob for \$5.00 at the Township office. This small fee will cover the cost of purchasing the key fobs and control the number of fobs issued per property. A maximum of two key fobs will be activated per property per year.

The gate will be locked completely and will not be able to be activated with a key fob after dusk.

Because we are still in the final stages of installing the facility, we ask you to stay tuned to our website at raphotownship.com for more information about the rules of the facility and how to purchase a key fob.



We can assure you that even once the gate is installed, we will be keeping the facility freely accessible during daylight hours until we have given plenty of opportunity for residents to purchase their key fobs. Our objective is to make this transition before spring, so residents will be ready to use their fob for spring clean-ups. Keep in mind that there will be an application form to complete when the key fob is purchased, and residents' vehicle license plate numbers and drivers' license information will be registered in our security system.

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CCWA NEWS

The Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance had a fantastic stand at the Manheim Farm Show this year. The stand featured a model rain garden — complete with rain! — created by the Rapho Township Public Works staff.

CCWA has become a leader in the state among active volunteer watershed groups, and will soon participate with Penn State University's Agriculture and Environmental Center in a grant-funded "Chiques Creek Reenvisioned" program. The group recently completed a floodplain restoration project at Logan Park in Manheim Borough.

New members are always welcome. Get involved in protecting your watershed by checking out chiquescreekwatershed.org, "liking" the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance on Facebook or attending a meeting at the Rapho Township building on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

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We appreciate our residents' safe and responsible use of our yard waste recycling facility, and we hope that the additional space will give our operation more structure and keep the Township property less cluttered with debris after a busy weekend. Once we have transitioned to the new space, you should enter the Township complex from the driveway on the south side and stay to the right to enter the recycling facility.

Permissible materials include branches (do not have to be tied), garden debris, and leaves in recyclable bags. No tree stumps, grass, or construction debris is allowed.

We are grateful for the grant funding we have received for the construction and equipment needed for the facility and the expansion project by the PA Department of Environmental Protection Act 902 Recycling Program Grant.

EPA PROMOTES BEING "SEPTIC SMART"

Septic systems are underground wastewater treatment structures that use a combination of nature and time-tested technology to treat wastewater from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains and laundry.

A typical septic system consists of a septic tank and a drainfield, or soil absorption field. Below is a brief overview of how a septic system works:

1. All water runs out of your house from one main drainage pipe into a septic tank.
2. The septic tank is a buried, water-tight container usually made of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. Its job is to hold the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle down to the bottom (forming sludge), while the oil and grease floats to the top (as scum). Compartments and a T-shaped outlet prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling into the drainfield area.
3. The liquid wastewater (effluent) then exits the tank into the drainfield. If the drainfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in toilets and sinks.
4. The wastewater percolates into the soil, naturally removing harmful coliform bacteria, viruses and nutrients.

If you have a septic system, you can find it by:

1. Looking on your home's "as built" drawing.
2. Checking your yard for lids and manhole covers.
3. Contacting a septic inspector/pumper to help you locate it.

A foul odor isn't always the first sign of a malfunctioning septic system. Call a septic professional if you notice any of the following:

1. Wastewater backing up into the household drains.
2. Bright green, spongy grass on the drainfield, even during dry weather.
3. Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or in your basement.
4. A strong odor around the septic tank and drainfield.
5. Mind the signs of a failing system.

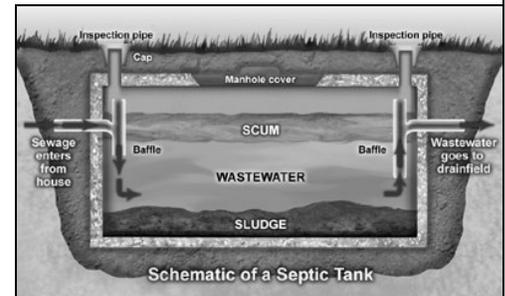
The average household septic system should be inspected at least every four years by a septic service professional. The Township requires documentation that your tank has been inspected and pumped if needed every four years.

Properties in the Union Square voting district are due to be pumped in 2015. Sporting Hill voting district properties must be pumped in 2016.

Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps or mechanical components need to be inspected more often, generally once a year.

The service provider should note any repairs completed and the tank condition in your system's service report. If additional repairs are recommended, be sure to hire someone to make them as soon as possible.

One call to a septic professional could save you thousands of dollars!



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

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PHONE SCAM

Scam artists are working multiple angles to get your hard earned money. One of the most common tactics is the use of an aggressive phone scam, which has been described by members of Congress as “the largest and most pervasive” impersonation scam in the history of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).



The IRS reminds people that it is fairly simple to spot an IRS imposter. Listed below are five things scammers often do, but the IRS will not. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

1. Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call regarding taxes owed without first having mailed you a notice.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Threaten to contact local police or other law-enforcement agencies to have you arrested for not paying.
4. Require you use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
5. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Remember, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal taxes. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type “scam” into the search box.

DOG LICENSE REMINDER

The PA Department of Agriculture reminds you that under Pennsylvania law, all dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year. Licenses may be purchased through the County Treasurer or at an issuing agent. Dogs and cats three months or older must also have a current rabies vaccination. For more information visit licenseyourdogPA.com.

WINTER WEATHER TIPS

The Township is always ready for winter weather, and our Public Works Department is careful to work efficiently and use resources wisely in the maintenance of our roads. To help us do our jobs, please follow some basic guidelines:

- * Do not attempt to pass salt or plow trucks, even when they are moving slowly.
- * Avoid parking on the street, if possible.
- * Clear an area ahead of your driveway opening to allow the snowplow to unload before it reaches the driveway opening. Plows cannot be lifted at driveways.
- * Be aware that snow removal continues after precipitation has stopped as we work to widen the cleared area.
- * Do not throw, blow, or plow snow into the street.
- * Remove snow and ice from the sidewalk along your property within 24 hours after precipitation has stopped.
- * Clear snow from fire hydrants near your property.
- * Avoid storm water pollution during the winter months by considering alternatives to road salt like potassium acetate (KA) or sand.
- * Do not hose down your car or your garage on a mild winter day. Residue left from road salt, oil, gas, and other road pollutants drip from your car, and are flushed into the storm sewer system.
- * Clear snow and ice from storm water inlets to allow water to drain.

PROTECTING YOUR POULTRY

If you are raising poultry, (chickens, turkeys, ducks or other birds), even in a small backyard flock, you should be practicing biosecurity. By doing this, you are reducing the chance of infectious diseases like Avian Influenza being carried onto your property and spread to your neighbors’ flocks..

Tips for keeping your flock safe:

1. Be careful when introducing new animals and pay attention to wild birds on your property.
2. Restrict access to your property and poultry.
3. Follow biosecurity cleanliness—clean clothes, scrub boots with disinfectant.
4. Don’t share equipment with your neighbors.
5. Look for signs of infectious diseases, which could include sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and/or runny nose, watery and green diarrhea, lack of energy and poor appetite, drop in egg production, swelling around the eyes, neck and head or purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
6. Report any sick animals immediately to the state Department of Agriculture. Their 24-hour hot-line is 717-772-2852)



THE BIG LITTLE LIBRARY

Rapho Township invites you to visit the new “Big Little Library.” During the Township office’s hours of operation, 8 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday, the community may check out this new service sponsored by Manheim Community Library.

This is not a traditional library where you take a book and bring it back after reading it. With our library, you may choose a book and swap it for one of your own that you have already read and enjoyed. The books are designed to appeal to users of all ages. There is a variety of fiction and non-fiction, no library card is required and the service is free of charge.

Check out our Big Little Library and you might find a few books to swap out that suit your liking!



RAPHO TOWNSHIP

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

Sara Gibson - Township Manager
manager@raphotownship.com
Dave Eggert - Zoning Officer
zoning@raphotownship.com
Melva Kready - Tax Collector
melva@raphotownship.com
John Haldeman - Public Works Director
roadmaster@raphotownship.com
Ena Marie Banks - Recycling Coordinator
enamarie@raphotownship.com
Robin Price -- Bookkeeper
office@raphotownship.com

Presort
insignia

Visit our new website at
www.raphotownship.com

RECYCLING CORNER

RECYCLING FACT

In the first year of operation, we have processed 25.28 tons of raw yard waste generated at our Yard Waste Recycling Facility. The yard waste was ground into single grind wood mulch on site and loaded onto trucks that shipped it to a mulch processing facility.



RECYCLING TIP

Protect the environment and help a very worthy cause in the community — donate your E-Waste to the Goodwill Keystone Area? Goodwill and Dell computers have partnered to provide a safe and responsible way of recycling your old computers. You may donate any computers, printer, mouse, keyboard or monitor to a Goodwill Keystone Area donation center. The donated equipment is de-manufactured, and recycled. The revenue generated from this program supports Goodwill's job training programs, employment placement services and other programs for people who have disabilities, lack education and work experience, or face other challenges. For more information about this program, visit dellreconnect.com or yourgoodwill.org. Remember that E-Waste cannot be accepted curbside by your hauler.

WHAT DO YOUR RECYCLABLES BECOME?

Have you ever thought about where your recyclables go and what happens to them? Here are some examples of what your recyclables become:

Magazines become paperboard, telephone directories & newspapers

Paperboard (cereal & rice boxes), mixed paper & junk mail become paper backing on roofing shingles, paper towel rolls & new paperboard boxes

Cardboard becomes paper bags, new cardboard, paperboard & corrugated cardboard medium

Notebook & computer paper become paper towels, facial tissue, toilet paper, napkins, new notebook paper, new computer paper

Steel/tin cans become bike parts, rebar, car parts, steel beams, appliances, new cans

Aluminum cans become new aluminum cans

Glass bottles become new bottles, new jars, fiberglass, sand used in construction projects

Plastics become carpet, backpacks, polar fleece, sleeping bag and ski jacket insulation, plastic lumber for decking and docks, play sets, new bottles, buckets, containers, Frisbees, stadium seats



No burning of trash or recyclable materials, including yard waste, is permitted in Rapho Township!