

Fall/Winter 2017



PERKIOMEN NEWSLETTER *Township*

Dear Perkiomen Township Residents,

This is the Fall and Winter Edition of the Perkiomen Township Newsletter. The Board hopes everyone finds the information in this newsletter to be valuable and useful. Below is the contact information and meeting schedule for Perkiomen Township.

Township Contact Information

Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

1 Trappe Road, Collegeville, PA 19426

Phone Number – 610-489-4034 • Fax Number – 610-489-4918

Web Site: www.perkiomentownship.org



Township Manager: Cecile M. Daniel

Meeting Schedule

Board of Supervisors

First Tuesday of Each Month
at 7:00 p.m.

Municipal Authority

Second Tuesday of Each
Month at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

Third Tuesday of Each Month
at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

Public Hearings held when
necessary

Joint Meeting

Held between Board & Planning Commission if necessary,
Fourth Tuesday of Each Month at 7:00 p.m.



Perkiomen Rain Garden

pages 7-10



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Perkiomen Township

COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT NUMBERS:

MUNICIPAL

Perkiomen Township Tax Collector – Dawn Johnston

phone: 267-354-1955 | fax: 267-347-1755

P. O. Box 26095 | Collegeville, PA 19426

e-mail: perkiomentwptaxcol@gmail.com

Perkiomen Valley School District - 610-489-8506

Municipal Authorities:

Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority – 610-489-2831

Perkiomen Township Municipal Authority – 610-489-2315

Schwenksville Borough Authority – 610-287-7772

Perkiomen Township Fire Company

610 489-0911 (Non-Emergencies) Otherwise call 911

610-489-7707 (Fire Company Business & Hall Rental)

AMBULANCES:

Plymouth Community Ambulance

610-277-2776 (Non-Emergencies) | Otherwise call 911

Trappe Fire Company and Ambulance

610-489-2700 (Non-Emergencies) | Otherwise call 911

District Justice County 31-38-1-24

Albert Augustine – 610-584-4732

PA State Police

610-584-1250 (Non-Emergencies) | Otherwise call 911

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – 610-287-9383

PENNSYLVANIA STATE DEPARTMENTS:

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Montgomery County – Penn Dot Maintenance Section

610-275-2368

Penn Dot – District 6 – 610-205-6700

Pot Hole Repair State Roads

Contact the PENNDOT Maintenance Hotline

at 1-800-FIX ROAD

Pennsylvania Environmental Protection – 484-250-5900 (24 hours/day)

Pennsylvania Senator Bob Mensch - Local Office: 215-541-2388

Pennsylvania Representative Tom Quigley

Local Office: 610-792-1280

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

Montgomery County Court House

610-278-3000 (General Number)

Montgomery County Board of Health

Pottstown 610-970-5040

Norristown 610- 278-5117

Montgomery County Board of Assessment

Montgomery County sets the assess value of your home. For questions on your assess value please contact the Board of Assessment at 610-278-3761

Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds

All deeds in Montgomery County are recorded in the Recorder of Deed's Office. For questions concerning your deed contact the Recorder of Deeds Office at 610-278-3289

Montgomery County Parks

Central Perkiomen Park Valley Park – 610-287-6970

Pennypacker Mills – 610- 287- 9349

Montgomery County Voter Services

For questions regarding voter services/registration and absentee ballots: 610-278-3280

UNITED STATES POST OFFICES

Collegeville – 610-409-0572

Schwenksville – 610-287-3551

LIBRARIES

Montgomery County Library – Norristown: 610-278-5100

Perkiomen Valley Library – 610-287-8360

BERKHEIMER ASSOCIATES

(Earned Income Tax Questions) 610-599-3138 or 1-866-701-7205

S.P.C.A.

Montgomery County S.P.C.A (Main Office)

Conshohocken: 610-825-0111

Perkiomenville – 610-754-7822

PRIVATE WATER COMPANIES

Pennsylvania America Water Company – 1-800-717-7292

Aqua of Pennsylvania – 1-877-987-2782

PECO EMERGENCIES – 1-800-841-4141

Inside This Issue

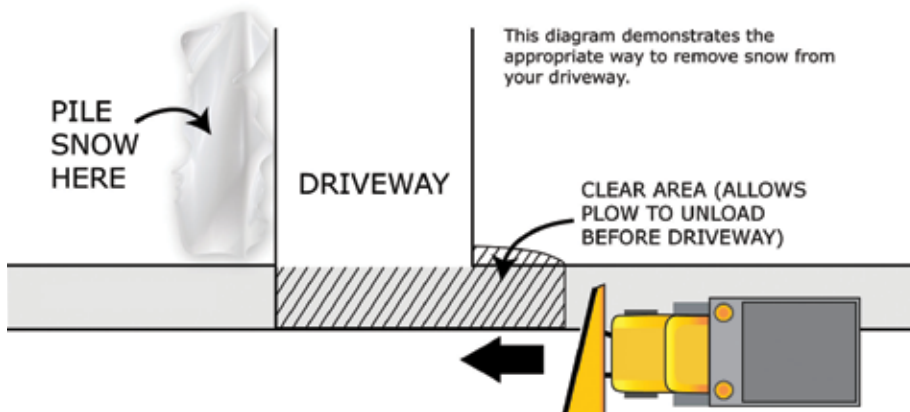
Community Contact Information.....	2	Noise Ordinance.....	5
Winter Road Maintenance.....	3	Perkiomen Township Fire Company.....	5
Reimbursement for Damage to Mailbox & Post.....	3	Prevent Frozen Pipes.....	6
No Burning Regulations.....	4	Perkiomen Township Stormwater Management Project.....	7-10
Unattended Sports Equipment.....	4	Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter.....	11
Leaf and Small Branch Curb Side Pick Up.....	4	Winter Holiday Safety.....	11
Leaf Waste & Small Branch Drop-off.....	4	Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze.....	12
Christmas Tree Recycling.....	4	Perkiomen Township Municipal Authority E-Payment Service.....	13

Winter Road Maintenance and Preparations

The township is preparing for the snow removal season and has contracts in place for the purchase of road salt and cinders for the treatment of township roads. Each of you can help with the maintenance of the roads this winter by following these winter reminders:

- Remove vehicles from the street during any snow event that requires plowing or the application of salt or cinders. There is reduced visibility for the drivers during a snowstorm. Having to maneuver through parked traffic makes their jobs much more difficult.
- Mailboxes and posts are often broken from the weight of the plowed snow or simply pushed over by snow. Please check posts for deterioration to reduce the possibility of breakage. Also, install mailboxes as far from the edge of the roadway as permitted by your postal delivery personnel. Installations of any items (e.g. fences, basketball nets, mailboxes, etc.) in the right-of-way are placed there at the owner's risk.
- Cul-de-sacs are difficult to clear to everyone's satisfaction. Snowplows do not have the ability to lift and carry snow from one area to another. The plow pushes the snow. The driver pushes the snow to an area most suitable to expedite the plowing and to open the road.
- Do not shovel snow into the road or have your driveway plowed into the road. This creates a safety hazard. If possible, wait until the road has been plowed before cleaning out the end of your driveway and your sidewalk. There is no practical way to plow the road without depositing snow into your driveway. Township snow removal crews do not clear private driveways, driveway entrances, and sidewalks of accumulated snow.

See example to the right.



Reimbursement for Damage to Mailbox & Post

Perkiomen Township has adopted a policy regarding the reimbursement for damage to any mailbox and/or post caused by the Township's snowplows. This includes damage caused by Township employees, agents, and contractors that plow snow or salt and cinder the roads in Perkiomen Township. Any mailbox owner that claims a Township plow has damaged his/her mailbox and/or post shall report the damage to Shawn Motsavage, Township Road Master, within five (5) business days. Upon receipt of the claim, Mr. Motsavage will investigate the complaint. The Township shall only be responsible for damage to the mailbox and/or post that it strikes with its vehicles or its plows and shall not be responsible for damage caused by plowed snow, salt, or cinders. The owner of the mailbox shall either repair or replace the mailbox and/or post, then submit a receipt to the Township for the cost. Said receipt shall be submitted with a request for reimbursement within thirty (30) days after Mr. Motsavage has investigated the claim. If the receipt for repair or replacement of the mailbox and/or post is less than \$95.00, the Township will reimburse the owner for the amount set forth on the receipt. If said cost exceeds \$95.00, the Township's financial responsibility shall be capped at \$95.00. The Township's responsibility shall be limited to the cost of the repair or replacement of the mailbox and/or post only. Any other items (e.g. fences, plantings, basketball nets) situated in the right-of-way or the edge of the roadway are placed there at the owner's risk and are not eligible for reimbursement by the Township should they be damaged by the Township's employees, agents or contractors.



No Burning Regulations

On August 3, 2010, the Perkiomen Township Board of Supervisors enacted Ordinance No. 207, an amended Recycling Ordinance. The amended Recycling Ordinance was a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. One of the significant changes was the ban on burning. The Recycling Ordinance states that "No resident or person shall burn any recyclable material, leaf waste or municipal waste." Anyone having any questions should contact John Moran Jr. at 610-489-4034.



Unattended Sports Equipment

From November 1st to March 31st, Unattended Sports Equipment being left on or in close proximity of a township street is a violation of Perkiomen Township Ordinance No. 225.

Perkiomen Township requests owners of sports equipment to move the equipment far enough back from the curb or street edge and outside of the street right-of-way during this timeframe to prevent damage from any township equipment performing winter maintenance and or spring cleanup of the streets. Damage can not only occur to the sports equipment, but to township and/or subcontractor equipment due to these objects being located either in the street or too close to the street.

The Township has the right to remove the unattended sports equipment without notice and without responsibility or liability for any damage caused thereto if left in a position in violation of the ordinance.

Anyone with questions regarding unattended sports equipment can contact the Township Code Enforcement Officer, John Moran Jr. or the Township Road Master, Shawn Motsavage at 610-489-4034.

Leaf and Small Branch Curb Side Pick Up

Perkiomen Township will be picking up leaves and small branches on the following dates:

- Monday, November 6, 2017
- Friday, November 10, 2017
- Monday, November 13, 2017
- Friday November 17, 2017
- Monday November 20
- Monday, November 27, 2017

If leaves are bagged they must be put in brown paper yard bags **NO PLASTIC**.



Leaf Waste & Small Branch Drop-off

Residents of Perkiomen Township may drop-off leaf waste (**which does not include grass clippings, stumps, or roots**) but would include leaves, shrubbery and tree trimmings at the Township building on **MONDAYS and FRIDAYS ONLY** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas tree recycling begins December 26th thru January 31st trees can be dropped off at the stone lot below the Township Administration Building. Please no plastic bags! There will be no curbside pickup.


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Did you know that Perkiomen Township has a noise ordinance?

We do, and it was adopted on February 7, 2012. More about this in a while, but first some personal history.

When I moved to Perkiomen Township in 1978, our population was barely 3,300 residents (1980 Census; 3,265 Residents). Birchwood was our largest ongoing development and they were just starting the planning stage for Cranberry. Township Line was still a fairly quiet country road, the 422 Expressway between Collegeville and King of Prussia was under construction, and the light at Routes 29 and 113 in Rahns seldom had more than a few cars waiting to cross. Aside from birds and an occasional mooing cow, Perkiomen Township was a pretty quiet place to live.

That was then – this is now. We are approaching 10,000 residents; we have 3 large planned residential developments or PRD's (Cranberry, Fox Heath, and Perkiomen Greene), many smaller subdivisions, additional schools, and a lot more traffic. For those of us who thought we were moving to the country, it's been a big change – some of it good to be sure. We now have more choices of grocery stores, restaurants and shopping than ever before. And, traffic permitting, we can get to King of Prussia in 20 minutes. But with the township growth, we also have a lot more noise than ever.

As neighborhoods started occupying much of the open land and neighbors started rubbing elbows, the number of complaints coming into the Township office about noise really started to ramp up. In anticipation of this growing problem, the Perkiomen Township Board of Supervisors investigated what types of noise ordinances other municipalities had adopted. With this information, the Board developed the noise ordinance that was approved and adopted in 2012 and is in effect today. A copy of the ordinance can be found at, <http://www.ecode360.com/27469132>

In the Noise Ordinance, excessive noise is defined. Below are a few points that make up the definition of Excessive Noise:

- Noise that unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property and exceeds decibel levels measured at the property line established in the ordinance for Daytime or Nighttime
- Noise that is annoying to a person of ordinary sensibilities and exceeds decibel levels measured at the property lines established in the ordinance for Daytime or Nighttime

Now that you know somewhat about our noise ordinance, here are some tips to help make Perkiomen Township a more peaceful place to live:

- Barking dogs - Try not to leave your barking dog unattended outside for long periods of time.
- Sound from backyard parties and gatherings – Sound really travels even if there are natural buffers between you and your neighbors. Be sensitive to the fact that you may be disturbing residents hundreds of feet away. Keep the volume to a minimum – especially after 9pm.
- Noise from gas or diesel fueled engines such as lawn equipment, tools, generators, and construction. Be mindful of your neighbors and not run/use the equipment or tools too early or late.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to send an email or give us a call.

**Dean Becker, Perkiomen Township
Supervisor and Chair, Central
Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning
Commission**



Perkiomen Township Fire Company

485 Gravel Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426

Business Line:
610-489-7707

2017 EVENT CALENDAR

November 4th
**Comedy Show/
Fundraiser**

November 23th
**Thanksgiving Breakfast
Buffet/Fundraiser**

November 25th
**Christmas Tree Sale
Starts/Fundraiser**

December 16th
Santa Visits Township*

**No times of arrival are given. Please listen for the sirens and airhorns of the fire apparatus. Have your children walk to the streets edge/curb line to greet Santa Claus and his helper helps the fire company move more efficiently through the Township.*



Prevent FROZEN Pipes

AQUA

In freezing temperatures, metal pipes contract as the water inside expands. This is what causes pipes to burst. Let **Fred Wags** and **Felicia Fluff** help you identify and protect your household pipes and water meter in cold weather.

1

Insulate Pipes.

Insulate pipes located against exterior walls in unheated areas of your home like basements and crawl spaces. Use heat tape or pipe insulation found at most hardware or home improvement stores.

Or just sit on them...

2

Open Cabinet Doors.

Allow the warmth inside your house to surround your pipes in extreme cold.

3

Remove Hoses.

Exterior faucets and hoses are first to freeze. Remove outdoor hoses before the cold weather sets in.

STORAGE
(a.k.a. Felicia's House)

Keep Water Running.

If it's 10° or colder, leave a thin stream of water running from the tap farthest from the water meter.

4

Eliminate Drafts.

Repair broken or cracked basement windows and close them tightly. Close off crawl space vents and doors too.

5

6

Check Water Meters.

Make sure the lid is not broken or missing. Pack the pit with insulating material or an old blanket.



7

Thaw Pipes.

If a pipe freezes and you can locate the frozen section, use a hair dryer to thaw the area. Hold it six inches away and move it back and forth. If this doesn't work, call a plumber.



Perkiomen Township Stormwater Management Project

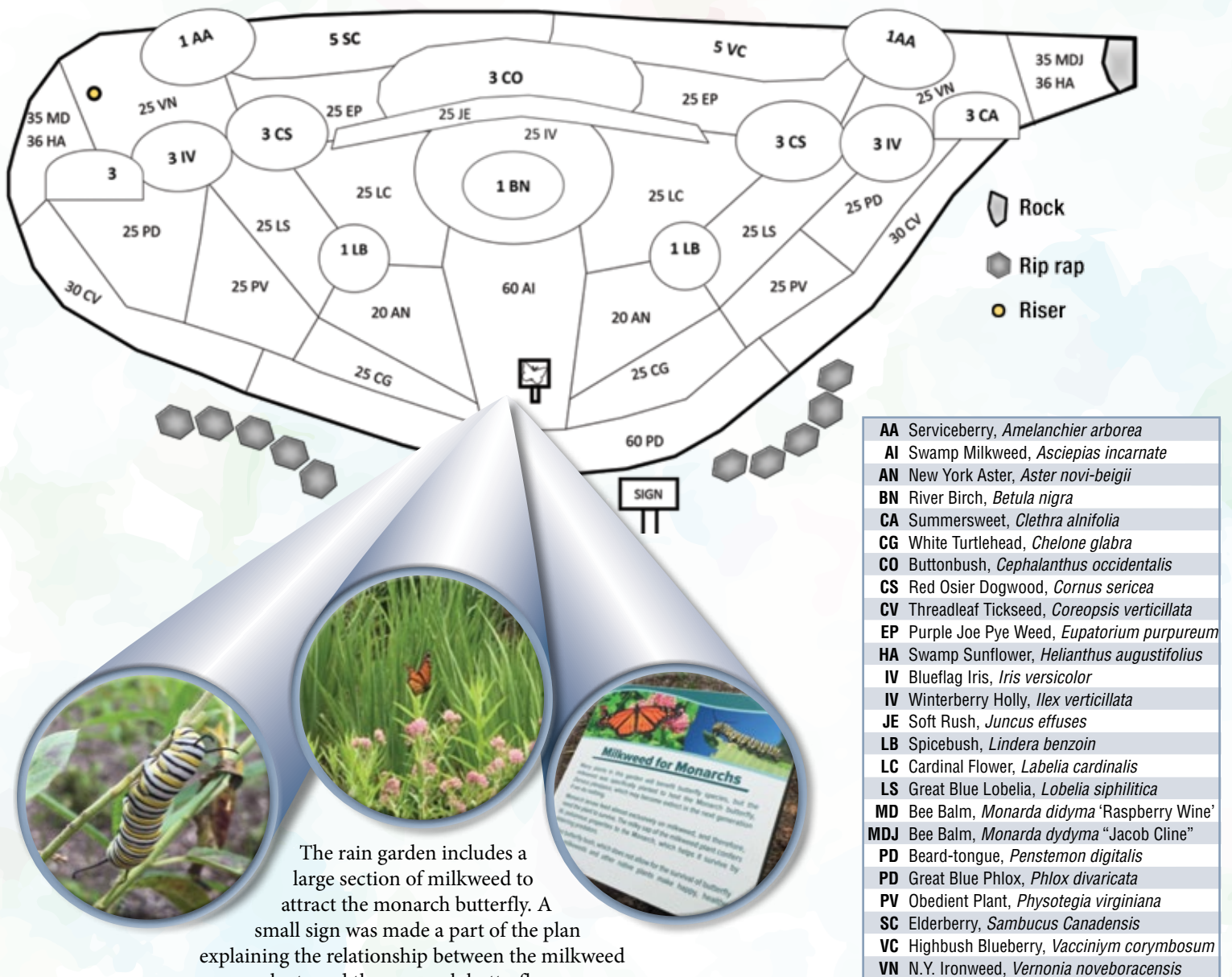
This project was completed due to the assistance of the Montgomery County Conservation District, the Perkiomen Valley High School Key Club, the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Local Residents, and the Perkiomen Township Road Crew. The Board of Supervisors thanks all of you for your dedication and hard work to make this project a success.

Financial support for the project was awarded through the PECO Green Regions/Open Space grant program, managed by Natural Lands Trust, and the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project was also funded by Exelon Corp. through the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund and the Delaware River Basin Commission.

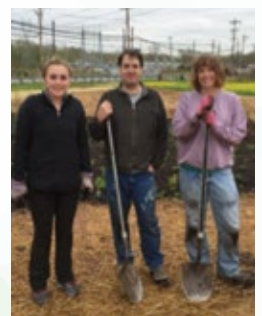
In the fall of 2015, Conservation District Watershed Specialist Krista Scheirer began working with Jeff Sholly of the PA Association of Conservation Districts to design the rain garden and proposed swale that was constructed on the Township's property along Gravel Pike. There were many challenges created by the number of utilities located in this area. Added to the problem was a seasonally high-water table located in this area. After several soil tests and additional analysis, the location of the rain garden and swale was finalized.

Next, Ms. Scheirer worked with the Perkiomen Valley High School Key Club to establish a sub-committee to help design the landscaping for the rain garden. In the winter of 2016, the students who were a part of this sub-committee began to research appropriate plants for the rain garden. The students selected a diverse group of native plants based upon their ability to filter stormwater, while providing habitat value and beauty to the rain garden.

Ms. Scheirer helped the students devise a planting plan that corresponded with the rain garden's proposed shape.



In April 2016, the Perkiomen Township Road Crew, with the help of Ms. Scheirer and Conservation District Engineer Gary Kulp, began constructing the rain garden. This project was a complex design which called for the existing pipe on the property to be lengthened and an underdrain to be installed to compensate for the poor drainage of the existing soils.



Once the rain garden was constructed and mulched, there were three planting workdays. Students from the Key Club and local residents planted almost 800 trees, shrubs and perennials in the garden



For their work on this project, the students of the Key Club, led by the club's advisor Alex Leahy, were awarded a Schuylkill Scholastic Drinking Water Award from the Schuylkill Action Network and the Environmental Protection Agency. They were also awarded a Kids Making a Difference Award from the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.

The Penn State Master Gardeners and Master Watershed Stewards, some of whom helped to plant the rain garden, can use this site to help educate others about the benefits of rain gardens. The garden is highly visible from Gravel Pike and the Perkiomen Trailhead lot and will continue to be used as an educational tool. In January 2017, Montgomery County Conservation District hosted a workshop for surrounding Road Crews to review maintenance practices for such stormwater management practices.



Key Club leader Carli Monostra came back this spring to weed and maintain the garden as an intern with the Conservation District. Thanks Carli!





Large boulders were delivered and installed at the site. The boulders were placed at the front of the garden to create rock benches so that the rain garden can be used as an outdoor classroom for the schools, or just a nice place to sit and watch the butterflies.

In addition to the rain garden and wetland swale along Gravel Pike, we also re-built and naturalized the stormwater basin next to the Township Building. This basin now works to settle out sediment and other pollutants, infiltrate runoff, and provide beautiful bird habitat. The basin overflows into a vegetated swale, which leads to the rain garden, so all these practices work together to treat stormwater pollution and protect the Perkiomen Creek.

Perkiomen Township Rain Garden

Come visit and enjoy our rain garden!

Perkiomen Rain Garden

Rain gardens are bowl-shaped to catch the rain that runs off the land, allowing time for the water to soak into the soil, which filters pollution naturally. The garden is filled with many species of deep-rooting native plants, which also work to soak up the water and can help break down some pollutants. By installing this large rain garden, we are able to improve a wet area of the property while protecting the Perkiomen Creek. With a 1-inch rain storm, this garden processes more than 8,000 gallons of water!

This project was constructed by the Township Roads Crew, with help from the Conservation District. You too can plant a rain garden on your property! For more information, contact the Montgomery County Conservation District.

www.MontgomeryConservation.org • 610-489-4506




Native Plants — Keep it Local!

Plants that originated in this region are adapted to local conditions, so they require less effort to grow. They do not have the potential to spread into and disturb natural areas, as some exotic plants do, and planting native plants benefits important pollinators and other wildlife.

The landscaping plan for the garden was designed with students from Perkiomen Valley High School's Key Club, who also helped to plant the garden. The students selected a diverse group of native species for their ability to filter stormwater, thrive in a rain garden habitat, provide benefits for wildlife, and create an amenity for the community. In addition, the back row of the rain garden contains shrubs and trees with edible berries.

Rain Gardens Can...

- Protect and replenish drinking water supplies, like the Perkiomen Creek.
- Filter pollution out of rainwater and melting snow.
- Reduce flooding in our communities.
- Provide important food and shelter for wildlife.
- Replace wet areas with a lovely garden feature!

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 275 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The rain garden was also awarded a grant through the PECO Green Region Open Space Program. The project was also funded in part by Exelon Corp. through the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund and the Delaware River Basin Commission.

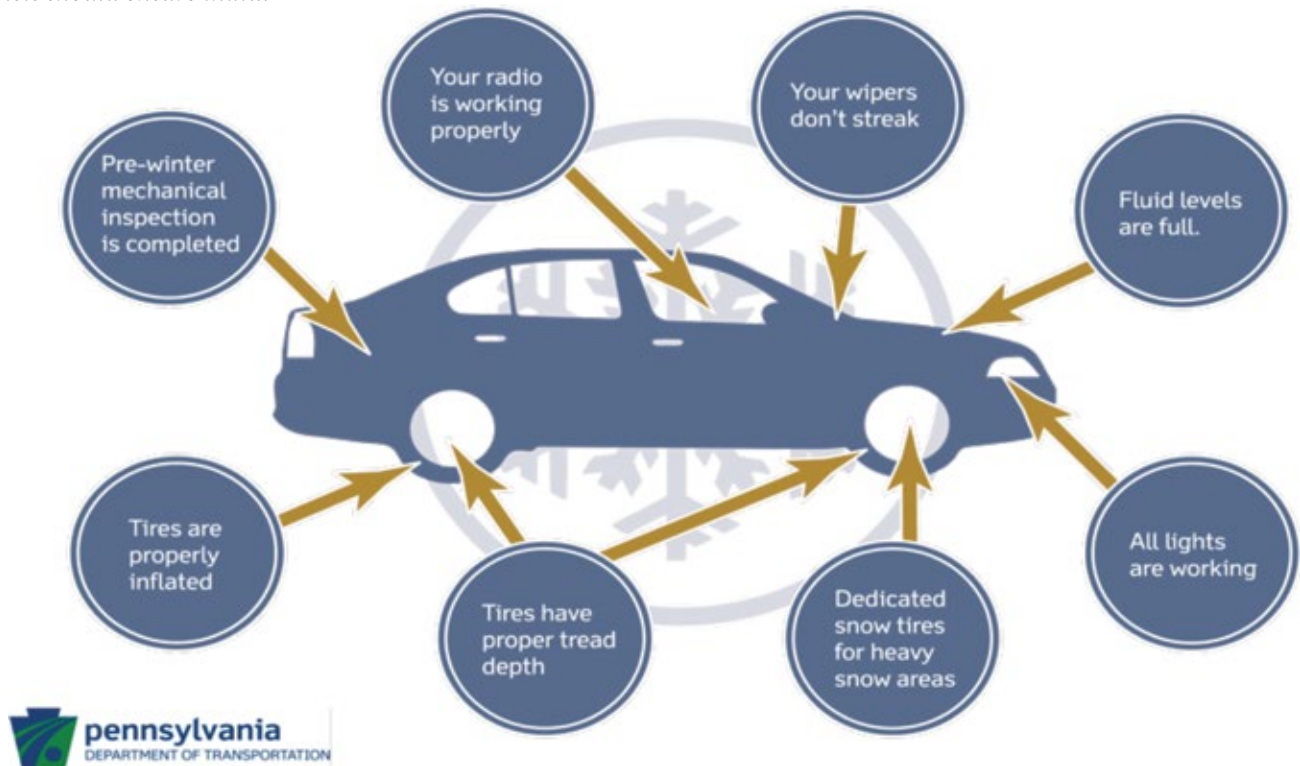







Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter

Motorists should ensure that...



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



FACTS

- **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- **Nearly half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2016

10 Tips

Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- ☐ Our **furnace has been inspected and serviced** by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. *(A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)*
- ☐ Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. *(Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)*
- ☐ Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- ☐ Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- ☐ We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. *(The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)*
- ☐ Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- ☐ Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- ☐ Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** *(not an extension cord)* and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. *(Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)*
- ☐ We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. *(You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)*
- ☐ We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. *(Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)*



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NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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Township Officials

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Richard Kratz, Vice Chairman
Dean Becker, Supervisor
Janet Heacock, Supervisor
Gordon MacElhenney, Supervisor



Fall/Winter 2017

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