



EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

Fall 2019

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25 Years of Service



Captain James Shank reached his 25th year of employment milestone with the department. Chief Stephen Zerke presented him with a 25th Anniversary commemorative box as well as a 25-year pin. Congratulations Captain Shank!

Thank You for Your Service

Ron McFalls started with the East Lampeter Township Public Works department on December 7th, 1998. He was a great asset to the Township in many ways coming from a construction background.

Ron took pride in everything he did, making sure all projects were complete, often going over and above what was expected. From helping in the Parks, Sewers, or on road repairs, He was always contributing knowledge and know how.

One of Ron's favorite things that he talked about was snow removal. Making sure the roads were clear for the safety of Township residents and visitors.

Ron retired in December of 2018 and will be sorely missed. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to East Lampeter Township, and good luck and enjoy your retirement.



Trick or Treat Night

Thursday, October 31, 2019

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

East Lampeter Township Stormwater Fee

East Lampeter Township continues to evaluate the need for a stormwater fee. A public meeting was held on October 2, 2019 by the Board of Supervisors to review the progress of the study, answer any questions of the general public, and provide a direction and timeline for the potential implementation of the stormwater fee. Please look for additional information in future newsletters, announcements of additional public meetings and stormwater information on the Township's website.

For those that were not able to attend the public meeting, the following are a few questions that have been frequently asked by residents, at the stakeholder committee meetings, business representatives, agricultural representatives, school district representatives, and non-profit representatives over the past six months.

Doesn't the Township already have a stormwater system in place?

East Lampeter Township has had a stormwater system in place for many years. In recent years, the increased Federal and State mandates have required a comprehensive stormwater quality and management program. Through the assistance of consultants, East Lampeter Township has developed a stormwater program and now a stormwater fee could ensure that there is adequate support to meet the requirements of the permit. The fee would be used to cover the cost for increased inspection and maintenance of best management practice facilities and infrastructure as well as for the design and construction of water quality improvement projects.

How much will the stormwater fee be for a typical resident?

All landowners with impervious surface on their property would pay a fee, including non-profits. The amount would differ

based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. At this time, the draft stormwater fee project for a landowner with approximately 2,100 square feet of impervious surface on their property is estimated to be \$5.50 per month which is equal to one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

Am I just being taxed more?

Property taxes are based on the assessed value of the property, a stormwater fee is not a tax and is based on how much a property contributes to stormwater runoff through the amount of impervious surface on the property. Tax-exempt properties would be required to pay the stormwater fee as well if there is impervious surface on the property.

How would properties be billed?

It is anticipated that if you currently receive a sanitary sewer bill, the stormwater fee would be added to that bill on a quarterly basis as a separate line item. Those landowners that have on-lot septic systems would receive a new quarterly statement for the stormwater fee.

How will the proposed stormwater fee be determined?

The implementation of the stormwater fee has not been taken lightly by East Lampeter Township. The Board of Supervisors, along with Township staff and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee have taken into consideration the current condition of stormwater facilities in the Township, future projects that will need to occur to meet the regulatory requirements, and the capital improvements that will be necessary to rehabilitate or replace stormwater facilities to project expenses over the next 5- and 10-year periods. The overall costs were then divided by the number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) within the Township to determine the potential stormwater fee.

Ralph Hutchison	Township Manager
Stephen Zerbe	Chief of Police
Kevin Hostetter	Finance Director
Tara Hitchens	Dir. of Planning/Zoning Officer
David Sinopoli	Assistant Zoning Officer
Alecia Hair	Zoning Admin. Assistant
Charlie Thomas	Public Works Director
Larry Frankford	Sewer Superintendent
John Brooks	Road Superintendent
Troy Bresch	Parks Superintendent
Alex Wasilewski	Stormwater Technician
Jeffrey Shirk	System Administrator
Kathy Treier	Bookkeeper
Stephanie Leakway	Admin. Assistant
Lashawnda Martin	Admin. Assistant

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
except for February, May, July,
September and November when
they only meet on the 2nd Monday
All regular meetings begin at 7:30 pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

SEWER AUTHORITY

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month except for
November when they meet on the 1st Wednesday
All regular meetings begin at 4 pm

PARK BOARD

Meets 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 pm
(NO MEETINGS in November and December)

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
at 7 pm
(NO MEETING on 4th Thursday in
November and December)

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Pequea Creek Stream Bank Restoration

East Lampeter Township, Strasburg Borough, and West Lampeter Township with the cooperation of the landowner joined together to construct a 977-foot-long stream bank restoration along the Pequea Creek. This project started in 2016 with discussions between the three municipalities and

(continued on page 4)



Above: Looking downstream along left bank from pedestrian bridge at upstream extents. Below: Looking upstream, bank grading and tree planting on left bank; rock armoring on right bank along Soudersburg Rd.



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Pre-restoration

LEARNING ABOUT

Stream Restoration

WHAT IS IT?

The Pequea Creek stream restoration was designed to reduce streambank erosion through bank grading and beneficial plantings in order to improve water quality. The restoration includes a terraced bench and sloped banks to provide stability and flow capacity during flooding. Native plants help further stabilize the banks while also providing beneficial habitat.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

During heavy rainfall and snowmelt, the Pequea Creek rapidly rises. When the stream is confined within high banks, the flow picks up speed and power, carrying sediment and other pollutants downstream and increasing the potential for streambank erosion. The restoration allows flows to spread out and slow down by spilling out onto the shallow floodplain bench to be absorbed into the ground. The sloped banks improve stability and make it easier to access the stream for fishing, swimming and boating, while the native plant species further stabilize the banks and provide habitat for local wildlife.

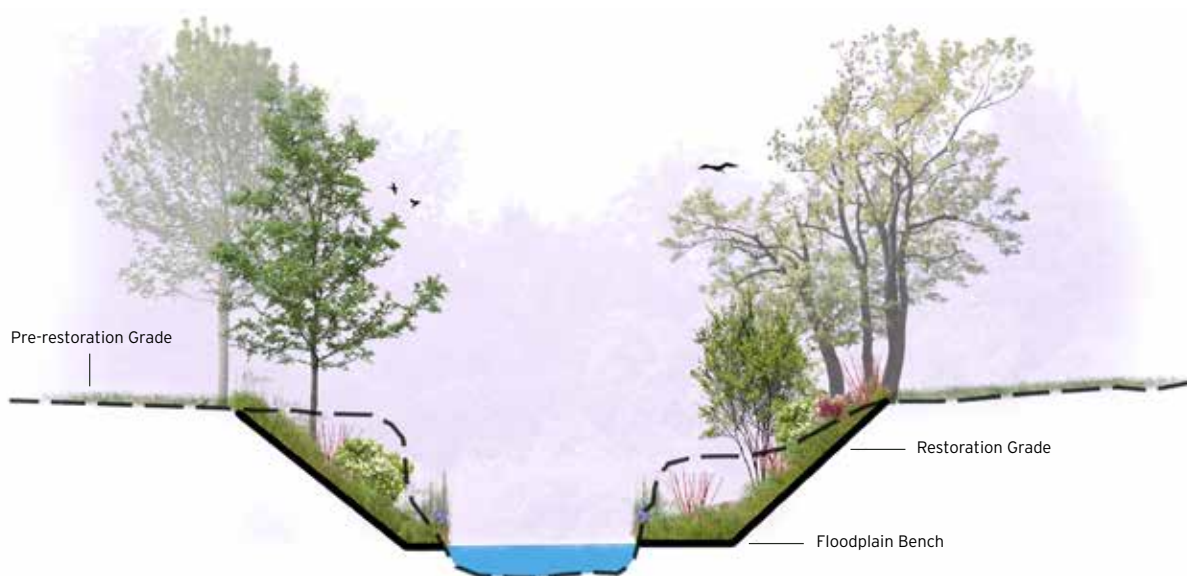
WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

A stream restoration removes sediment and reduces the potential for pollutants to move downstream. Slowing down the stream flow and allowing it to access the floodplain reduces flooding to the nearby community. A healthy stream environment also provides ideal habitat for wildlife to thrive.

DID YOU KNOW?

Historic milling operations relied on stream power that required intensive manipulation, damming, dredging and straightening of the waterway. These impairments are often the cause of flooding, environmental degradation and legacy sediment accumulation that persist to this day. Stream restoration projects like this one help to address these historic impacts while providing the following long-term benefits:

- Water Quality Improvements
- Flood Mitigation
- Erosion Reduction
- Habitat Creation
- Recreational Opportunities

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

Borough of Strasburg
FOUNDED 1733





Pequea Creek Stream Bank Restoration

(continued)

the landowner. A great partnership and grant award from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection allowed for a wonderful stream bank restoration that assists all three municipalities towards meeting their MS4 reduction requirements for the Pequea Creek watershed in this permit cycle. The project couldn't have been completed without the excellent services of Land Studies, Inc. and Flyway Excavating. Thank you to all that participated in any way with completing this project on time and on budget!



Above: Looking downstream along left bank from pedestrian bridge at upstream extents. Below: Upstream from project extents near South Ronks Mill Road Bridge.



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Pennsylvania's First Farm Bill Invests Millions to Address Challenges Facing the Ag Industry

Pennsylvania's first-ever farm bill will invest \$23.1 million to help farmers better cope with the challenges threatening their livelihoods while creating opportunities for future generations.

"The [bill] is bold, aggressive, and necessary to protect our farming heritage," Gov. Tom Wolf said at the recent bill signing, adding that these "historic investments...will improve the lives of all residents for years to come and create a pathway for a dynamic and prosperous farming economy in Pennsylvania."

"In my 20 years of public service," Ag Secretary Russell Redding said, "this is the largest investment I've ever seen made in Pennsylvania agriculture."

Pennsylvania's farms not only provide food, clothing, and other goods for people around the world, but they're also important to the economic vitality of townships of all sizes and all regions, urban, suburban, and rural.

Wolf has described the agricultural industry as "the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy."

"You don't have to drive too far in Pennsylvania to come across a farm," said David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. "Agriculture is a significant part of the commonwealth's landscape and culture while employing thousands of township residents."

"The farm bill," he added, "preserves and strengthens a generational industry that is a key part of the fabric that makes Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and raise a family."

Support for young farmers

A major hurdle facing the industry, however, is that the average age of farmers is increasing.

"Pennsylvania's farming population is getting older, and serious conversations are taking place about where the next generation will come from," Pa. Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert said. "Making access to farmland more affordable for younger farmers can help remove obstacles facing the next generation on the farm."

Under the farm bill, landowners who rent or sell to young farmers will be eligible for a tax credit.

"The lack of affordable farmland to rent or buy is often listed as the number one reason why young people do not pursue careers in farming," Ebert said. "We are hopeful that this new tax credit program will create more opportunities for Pennsylvania agriculture and inspire the next generation of farmers in the state."

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The new farm bill will also:

Develop new resources for agriculture business development and succession planning.

■ Two million dollars will be invested to create the Agriculture Business Development Center, which will provide business planning, marketing, diversification, and transition planning services to farmers.

■ Landowners who transfer preserved farmland to a qualified beginning farmer will be exempt from the realty transfer tax.

■ Increase opportunities for Pennsylvania's agricultural workforce.

■ With \$500,000 in seed money from the farm bill, the state will create the Pa.

Farm-to-School Grant Program, which will increase nutrition and agriculture education for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students.

■ Another \$500,000 has been set aside to re-establish the Agriculture and Youth Development Grant Program, which provides workforce initiatives for organizations such as FFA and 4-H.

Remove regulatory burdens and strengthen the state's agricultural business climate.

■ The Agriculture Linked Investment Program will receive \$500,000 to provide low-interest loans for conservation practices.

■ The state has also allocated \$2.5 million to the Conservation Excellence Grant Program, which will fund best-management practices in priority areas of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



A major hurdle facing the industry, however, is that the average age of farmers is increasing. Under Pennsylvania's first-ever farm bill, landowners who rent or sell to young farmers will be eligible for a tax credit.

Increase market opportunities and expand the organic farming sector.

■ The state is providing \$1.6 million to support the Pa. Preferred Program and create the Pa. Preferred Organic Initiative. An additional \$1 million will be given to Pa. Preferred to increase enrollment in the Homegrown by Heroes Program, which supports products grown by veterans.

■ The new Specialty Crop Block Grant Program will receive \$500,000 to invest in hardwoods, hemp, hops, and other priority crops.

Protect agriculture infrastructure.

■ Under the farm bill, \$4 million has been set aside to create the Pennsylvania Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account, which will provide a quick response to agricultural disasters. This funding will also help continue the fight against the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect that poses a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture.

State budget sets aside more money for farming

In addition to the farm bill, the recently passed 2019-2020 state budget includes additional funding to support agriculture.

State lawmakers approved at least \$7 million for such initiatives as the Agricultural Business and Workforce Investment Program, the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, and the Livestock and Consumer Health Protection Program. Research and cooperative extension programs also received funding increases.

“We believe the heavy focus on agriculture this year is a recognition by the General Assembly and the governor that a prosperous farming community is essential to the economic health of rural communities and the state’s economy,” Ebert said. “The new programs and increased funding for other programs come at a time when many farmers have struggled to stay in business after five consecutive years of depressed prices.”



Daylight Saving Time Ends November 4

It's that time of year again to fall back. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 3, 2018 before you go to bed. Daylight savings time officially begins at 2:00 AM on November 4, 2018.



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Change Your Batteries

With the time change occurring on Sunday, November 4th, this is always an excellent time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Taking a moment to do this could result in saving a life.

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Got Yard Waste?

It's that time again to start raking up the leaves and cleaning up the yard. Please remember that in East Lampeter Township, leaves and other yard waste are considered to be recyclable and therefore CANNOT BE BURNED. A citation can be given for not obeying this ordinance. If you wish to report any burning violations, please contact the East Lampeter Township Police Department at 291-4676.



For a nominal fee, you can take your yard waste to the Manheim Township Compost Park, located at 2775 Oregon Pike. The park is open every day, 7 am to 7 pm thru November 30. Yard waste includes all garden residues, shrubbery & tree pruning, sod, leaves & grass. If you have any questions please call Wendy Herr at 717-569-6406 ext. 1129.

So where should you go with all the leaves and other yard waste?

First, you can contact your trash hauler. They are required to pick up yard waste. They usually will provide you with a yard waste tag or bag for a small fee. Contact your trash hauler for more information.

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