



Established 1725

London Britain Township Newsletter

Chester County, Pennsylvania

FALL 2011

Emergency Preparedness Begins with Planning

An event that disrupts normal activity, causing damage and injury is an emergency situation. Emergencies can affect one family or entire communities. The best outcomes from an emergency occur when those involved are prepared and either have a plan in place or know the proper procedure to remedy the situation.

The most likely emergencies to occur in this area can be anything from weather related problems such as severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and blizzards, to radiation releases from a nuclear reactor, to chemical spills, to flu pandemics and bio terrorism, to forest fires.

This issue of the London Britain Township newsletter highlights emergency preparedness at the regional level through AGREM (Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management), the Township's planning efforts, and provides resources and suggestions for family/individual emergency preparedness planning.

Regional

AGREM is a coalition of representatives from each of the seven municipalities in the Avon Grove School District as well as representatives from the school district itself. It was formed well in advance of the year 2000 to plan for possible emergencies as related to the Y2K scare. As we all know nothing happened at the start of this new century, but this group came to understand the importance of regional planning for local emergencies. They have met ever since.

If/when an emergency occurs in one or more of AGREM's municipalities, coalition members may call on the known resources within the Avon Grove community for help. It supports the emergency plans for each member municipality. AGREM members also coordinate planning efforts with Chester County Emergency Services.

The organization recently acquired a 28-foot RV/Trailer from a FEMA grant, which is currently being outfitted with communications gear and will be used as an ICP (incident command post).

The organization is working on funding for an AM radio station where instructions for residents can be broadcast in the event of an emergency. This "info" station would also broadcast general municipal information when not needed for emergencies.

AGREM welcomes new volunteers. It is especially looking for people with previous emergency response training such as former fire fighters. Nurses who could help with mass care at a shelter are needed. People with computer and IT experience would also be useful additions to the team.

For more information go to AGREM's website at www.agrem.org. AGREM meets the third Thursday of each month in the New London Township Building on State Road, at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend its meetings.

London Britain Township

By law each municipality in the state must have an emergency plan and a designated Emergency Management Coordinator. London Britain Township's Emergency Management Coordinator is Chuck Freese.

LBT's emergency plans revolve around identifying likely situations that would require Township support. According to Freese, the most common situations are weather related (hurricanes, tornadoes, snow storms, flooding). A Hazmat/road emergency because of a chemical spill is identified as the second most likely scenario. The most recently added scenario is earthquake, after the shaking felt in London Britain Township from the Virginia-centered earthquake this fall.

The Township identified resources and continually updates a list of contacts from which it could use as an emergency unfolds. It includes all sorts of contacts including where to get potable water, companies with heavy machinery, local rental centers, grocery stores, and hardware stores.

Avon Grove High School is the POD (point of distribution) for any event where London Britain Township residents must get vaccinations, pick up iodine pills or other medications or equipment for any health-related emergency.

Freese says there is a need for more volunteers on the LBT Emergency Management Team. If interested, please contact him through the Township Office.

Residents

"There is no substitute for families and individuals being prepared for personal needs in an emergency," says Freese. Depending on the extent of a disaster or event it could take days for help to arrive.

Experts recommend that everyone should have a minimum of three days of water, food, and medical supplies for each member of your family.

The Chester County ReadyNotifyPA website allows residents to register for email, text messaging or pager notifications in the event of emergencies. Through the registration process individuals may choose what types of emergencies they wish to be notified about. According to the website at www.chesco.alertpa, "ReadyNotifyPA is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information."

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Special Needs Registry

As Hurricane Irene swung up the coast, London Britain Township was preparing its response. One of the things Carolyn Matalon, our township secretary, did was to access the Chester County Special Needs Registry to see who in our community would require what kind of special help during or after the hurricane. Much to the Township's surprise only one resident was registered. This resident was contacted prior to the weather event and the Township knew in advance what assistance might be needed.

It is highly recommended that individuals with special needs register with the county's Special Needs Registry. The information provided is only used when an emergency is declared and it helps first responders know who in the community will need extra help. Individuals can register online at www.specialneeds.pa.org or get a form at the Township Office.



West Grove Fire Company Station 32 Update: A Call for Community Volunteers

A fire company is more than equipment in a building. A fire company is about people committing to help their family, friends and neighbors when

they need them the most. For the West Grove Fire Company's (WGFC) new Station 32 to be successful it needs volunteers.

"West Grove Fire Company is providing the building and trucks," said WGFC Chief Robert Weer, "but it is up to the people to staff it." There are a few qualified and experienced firefighters from the area to start Station 32 and the hope is that more people in London Britain Township will volunteer to become fire fighters with the station closer to where they live.

This process is similar to WGFC's successful experience with Station 12 (on Route 896 in New London), which has resulted in additional volunteers and response times that made a difference in extinguishing fires and responding to accidents in the northern part of WGFC's coverage area.

Weer says response times to accidents and properties in the southern part of their service area (all of London Britain Township) could be cut in half with the opening of this new substation.

Ideally it takes six firefighters to man an engine with the absolute minimum being four trained firefighters. WGFC Station 32 will only operate when full crews are available on a 24/7/7 basis.

Training to be a firefighter consists of an 160-hour basic course over a three-month period. The next course will be offered by Chester County Fire Training Academy in the spring of 2012. To begin the process a prospective volunteer must fill out an application. Once accepted into the fire company, a volunteer may become involved at the station until the next training opportunity becomes available.

Three years in planning, finally the "brick and mortar" of the new West Grove Fire Company (WGFC) Station 32 is rising on Route 896 near Nichol Park. The plan is to enclose the building before cold weather sets in and have the building completed by March or April 2012. Over the winter the interior of the building will be completed including a heated floor and a sprinkler system.

Part of the project includes installing a 30,000 gallon underground water tank. Half of the water is dedicated to the fire sprinkler system for the substation and the remaining half is a reservoir to supply tank trucks when extra water is needed to fight a fire.

According to Weer, the total cost of the project was nearly \$800,000.

When finished the substation will house a fire engine with dual purpose rescue gear and an ambulance.

Contact the WGFC for more information on becoming a fire fighter by calling 610-869-9326 or by email: info@wgfc.org.

WGFC Stats: Jan. - Oct. 2011	
EMS Incidents	Fire Incidents
◆ Total: 1705	◆ Total: 423
◆ LBT: 100	◆ LBT: 31

Details of the 2012 Proposed LBT Budget

The 2012 Budget for London Britain Township is available for review at the Township Office during normal office hours.

Real Estate Taxes are the Township's main source of funds, providing 63 percent of all township revenue.

Since 2008, the assessed valuation of real estate in the Township has decreased by \$7.9 million. This results in a decrease in the Township Real Estate Tax Revenue.

Please remember that London Britain Township is one of the few local municipalities that does not have an earned income tax in addition to a property tax.

The table below highlights the millage rates and assessed value of real estate in

the Township from 2008 to 2012's projected rate.

Two of the major considerations of the budget are the maintenance of roads and provision for public safety including fire protection, ambulance and rescue services. The maintenance of roads constitutes approximately 36 percent of all township expenditures. Provisions for public safety constitutes another 16 percent of the budget.

The Township is establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to provide funding for larger road improvement projects to be completed in the near future. Fire protection, ambulance and medic services are budgeted at \$128,020 for 2012.

Emergency Preparedness...

(Continued from page 1)

There is a vast array of resources available to help people plan for emergencies. Pamphlets from Chester County Emergency Services are available at the Township Office.

The website: www.ready.gov is a great resource with checklists and suggestions on specific information families should know for emergency planning. This website also includes information for business planning as well as a site dedicated to helping youth understand emergencies.

The website: www.readypa.gov gives specific information and checklists for the top identified emergencies Pennsylvania residents might face.

London Britain Township Millage Rates and Assessed Values 2008-2012						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Mills	3.721	2.991	3.291	3.410	3.990	
Real Estate Valuation	\$247,203,175	\$244,724,655	\$243,158,395	\$243,362,475	\$239,232,405	
Decrease/Increase in Real Estate Tax Revenue		(\$9,223)	(\$4,684)	\$672	(\$14,083)	(\$27,319)
<i>Real Estate Valuation divided by 1,000 multiplied by Township mills = Township Real Estate Tax</i>						

Highlighting Emergency Preparedness Resources: Ready PA

Below is an excerpt from the Ready PA website (www.readypa.gov) with detailed information on what to do and expect with a Hazmat emergency. The site has similar specific information for other emergencies including: floods, fires, winter storms, tropical storms, tornadoes, wind storms, influenza pandemic, earthquake and landslides, nuclear threat, dam failure, and terrorism.

What to do in a “Hazardous Material Incident”

Hazardous materials are substances that if released or misused can pose a threat to the environment or health. Because hazardous materials are transported on our roadways, railways, waterways and pipelines every day, a hazardous material incident can happen anywhere and you need to be prepared in case an incident occurs near you.

Chemical manufacturers are one source of hazardous materials, but there are many others, including service stations, hospitals, and hazardous materials waste sites. Many hazardous materials do not have any odor, and may only be detected once physical symptoms like watering eyes or nausea occur. Some hazardous materials can cause death, serious injury, long-lasting health effects, and damage to buildings and property.

How to Prepare for a Hazardous Materials Incident

- Get an emergency supply kit that includes enough provisions for you and your family to live on for a minimum of three days.
- Be sure to include plastic sheeting, duct tape and scissors in your emergency kit.
- Make an emergency plan for you and your family.

What To Do if a Hazardous Materials Incident Occurs

- Listen to local radio or television stations for detailed information and instructions.
- If you witness a hazardous materials incident, spill or leak, call 911, your local emergency number or the fire department as soon as possible.
- Avoid contact with any spilled liquid materials, airborne mist or condensed solid deposit.
- Stay away from the incident area to minimize the risk of contamination.
- If you are caught outside during an incident try to stay upstream, uphill and upwind. Hazardous materials can be transported quickly by water and wind.
- In general, try to go at least one-half mile (10 city blocks) from the incident area.
- If you are in a vehicle, stop and seek shelter in a permanent building.

- If you must remain in your car, keep car windows and vents closed and shut off the air conditioner and heater.
- If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- If you are requested to stay indoors or shelter-in-place: Close and lock all exterior doors and windows. Close vents, fireplace dampers, and as many interior doors as possible. Turn off air conditioners and ventilation systems. In large buildings, set ventilation systems to 100 percent recirculation so that no outside air is drawn into the building. If this is not possible, ventilation systems should be turned off.
- Go into a pre-selected shelter room. This room should be above ground and have the fewest openings to the outside. Seal the room by covering each window, door, and vent using plastic sheeting and duct tape. Use material to fill cracks and holes in the room, such as those around pipes. Keep your body fully covered and wear gloves, socks and shoes even though these measures may offer minimal protection.
- Avoid eating or drinking any food or water that may be contaminated.

What To Do After a Hazardous Materials Incident

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe. Open windows and vents and turn on fans to provide ventilation.
- Act quickly if you have come into contact with or have been exposed to hazardous materials: Follow decontamination instructions from local authorities. You may be advised to take a thorough shower, or you may be advised to stay away from water and follow another procedure.
- Seek medical treatment for unusual symptoms as soon as possible.
- Place exposed clothing and shoes in tightly sealed containers. Do not allow them to contact other materials. Call local authorities to find out about proper disposal.
- Advise everyone who comes in to contact with you that you may have been

exposed to a hazardous material.

- Find out from local authorities how to clean up your land and property.
- Report any lingering vapors or other hazards to your local emergency services office.

Are You Storm Ready?

The Chester County Emergency Services Department makes the following suggestions to be prepared for storms and tornadoes:

1. Stay informed about the storm. Listen to weather reports via NOAA radio, commercial radio, and television.

2. Know What to Listen For:

- **Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a tornado warning is issued for your area and the sky becomes threatening, move to your pre-designated place of safety.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Severe thunderstorms are occurring.

3. Know What to Look Out For (tornado):

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall cloud
- Large hail
- Loud roar; similar to a freight train

4. The most basic Disaster Supplies Kit should include:

- A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person.
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first-aid kit, including prescription medicines,.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash .
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.

News and Notes

On Lot Sewage Tank Pumping

Residents with on lot sewage disposal, which are most township properties, are required to pump at least every three years. If your property was last pumped in 2008 it is due for pumping this year.

Please send all receipts promptly. If your pumper has informed you that he or she is sending the receipt, please follow up with the Township Office (610-255-0388) to ensure the township has received the paperwork. Any questions please give us a call.

The deadline for submitting a 2011 pumping to the Township is December 31, 2011.

2012 Municipal Budget and taxes

The preliminary 2011 Municipal Budget is available for review at the Township Office. The Board of Supervisors will have a budget hearing at the regular board meeting on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. The budget is expected to be passed at that meeting. Township tax bills are sent by February.

Help with Stray Animals

If you see a wild animal injured, acting inappropriate, or in danger contact the Game Commission at 877-877-9470 or 610-926-3136.

If you see stray dogs or cats or a domesticated animals injured, in danger, or acting inappropriately please contact the Chester County SPCA at 610-692-6113.

Dog Licenses

All dogs, three months of age and older, must be licensed in the State of Pennsylvania. Owners can be fined for not licensing their dogs.

The County Treasurer's office is responsible for collecting the applications and fees and issuing the dog license in the county. Yearly regular fees are \$6.45 for spayed and neutered dogs and \$8.45 if not. Persons with disabilities and senior citizens receive a \$2 discount. Licenses are based on a calendar year and must be renewed annually. 2012 licenses go on sale on December 1, 2011.

Dog licenses can now be obtained online at www.padoglicense.com, in addition to purchasing at the Chester County Treasurer's Office (by mail or in person). and at West Grove and Oxford Borough offices.

LBT/AG Library Satellite Hours

The Avon Grove Library's Satellite Library, housed at LBT's Meeting Hall is open on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a story hour at 11 a.m.

Snow Fence

Last winter's storms with blowing snow created problems for the Road Crew in many parts of the Township. With the property owner's permission, this winter the Township will install snow fencing along Flint Hill Road from the school house to Route 896 as a test. If the snow fencing proves successful in limiting snow drifting onto the roadways the Township will look to expand this effort in future years.

Please contact LBT's roadmaster Joe Ferguson, through the Township Office, if you have further questions or concerns.

Snow Plowing

The Township's Road Crew monitors the temperature and road conditions during the colder winter months and prepares in advance for ice and snow. Making the roads safe for travel during winter's snow and ice events is everyone's responsibility. The Road Crew asks for cooperation by doing the following in preparation for each storm:

- Please do not park your vehicles in cul-de-sacs, or on the roads. We will not plow the roads if cars are parked in these areas and/or if we feel that we are at risk of damaging your vehicle.
- Use pole markers for your property along the property's edge to denote the start of the road. With snow covering the ground, sometimes the plow disturbs some grass. We apologize for this in advance.
- Snow is heavy and sometimes mailboxes are damaged as snow is pushed off the roadway. If concerned about this damage, remove your mailbox before your street is plowed.
- Move all rocks back at least 3 feet from the edge of the road. Snow plow drivers cannot see rocks when covered with snow. Serious injury to drivers and major damage to snow plows (plus hours of downtime to fix the plows) occurs when rocks are struck.
- Give snowplows a safe driving distance.
- Do not plow or throw snow from your driveway into the street.

Remember snow plowing can be dangerous and SAFETY is our number one goal.

Township Directory

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Aileen Parrish - Chairman
Glenn Frederick - Vice Chairman
David Owens - Member

STAFF

Carolyn Matalon -
Secretary and Parks Manager
Dave Gargula - Zoning Officer
Joe Ferguson - Roadmaster and
Director of Public Works
Dan Tracey, Steven Henry, and Steve
Dudkewitz- Road Crew
Pat Walsh, Walsh Engineering -
Township Engineer
Janie Schnelle- Tax Collector
Annette Stejskal - Treasurer and
Project Coordinator

CONTACT INFO

Office/Meeting Hall/Garage:

81 Good Hope Road
Landenberg PA 19350

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 215, Kemblesville PA 19347

Phone: 610-255-0388

Fax: 610-255-3542

WEBSITE

www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov

EMAIL

carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net

Township Meetings

All meetings are held at the LBT Meeting Hall on Good Hope Road, 7 p.m.

Agendas are posted on the Township website by noon on the day of the meeting

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Second and fourth Mondays of the month (except December, plus call or check website for other dates and/or canceled meetings)

PLANNING COMMISSION

Each Tuesday following a Board of Supervisors' meeting

This newsletter is published by the London Britain Township Board of Supervisors, and produced by Secretary Carolyn Matalon and Lucas Communications and Publications.

Mason Dixon Greenway South improvements complete

New township park features handicapped-accessible trail and passive recreation opportunities



LBT Supervisors Glenn Frederick, Aileen Parrish and David Owens stand at the Overlook. They are thrilled with the outcome of this new park for the community and encourage everyone to come enjoy the outdoors.

Two Eagle Scout projects improve MDGS

Community service projects by two local youth added new elements to the work at Mason Dixon Greenway South.

Charlie Trouba, of Boy Scout Troop 10, blazed the trail that connects the paved trails to the mowed trails near the Flint Hill Crossing development, as well as improved an existing trail. On the existing trail, he widened the path and removed undergrowth, replaced muddy sections with gravel, repositioned berms and dug channels for water drainage, and added cedar trail markers. On the new trail he laid out the plan for the path, raked away leaves and removed foliage, and evened the camber of the path. Large rocks and roots were removed and trail markers were added. "I was very interested in doing something that could help the local community enjoy the outdoors," said Charlie on why he chose this project.

Connor Firor, a LBT resident and member of Boy Scout Troop 62, followed the progress of the MDGS through the Township newsletters and decided he wanted to develop at this site habitats for local bird species that were displaced by development in the area. Connor's project included researching the needs of the birds, then building and placing 12 birdhouses in the MDGS (three houses each for downy woodpeckers, American robins, house finches, and bluebirds).



Above: Charlie Trouba along the trail he built.

Below: Connor Firor hangs a downy woodpecker house high in a tree.



Located on Flint Hill Road, near the intersection with Strickersville Road is the parking area for Mason Dixon Greenway South. From the parking lot a handicapped-accessible trail meanders into the woods and along the creek. Mowed trails also wind through the native grasses meadow. There are picnic tables throughout the area and benches, too. Trails extend from the parking lot, offering new places for residents to explore. After years of planning, this area is now open for hiking, biking and equestrian use. Come out and discover this new treasure in LBT!

Many thanks for those who made this possible

The Mason-Dixon Greenway South Project is the result of many people working together. This includes residents of the Township, the designers and engineers, and the contractors. I would like to thank:

- The resident volunteers that served on the committee that authored the Master Site Plan for the project.
- Sally Cheyne, resident and former Township Secretary, for obtaining the grant monies from the state and county to fund the project.
- The Board of Supervisors: Glenn Frederick, David Owens, and Aileen Parrish for their support of the project.
- The London Britain Township Land Trust.
- Mark Gormel, resident, who provided the technical information to establish the meadow.
- The Open Space and Trails Committee: John Bacino, Chuck Carroll, Sally Cheyne, Robert Cox, Glenn Frederick, Bill Hutchins, Dave Jarosz, Carl Kriebel, Bill Maslanka, Fred Nelson and Stephanie Town.

Working with the guidance of the committee, Ellen Tracey, RLA, DE-SIGNS etc. created the plans for the Woodland Walkway, the overlook deck, the Interpretive Gardens at the parking lot, the trail layouts and the tree plantings. Ellen also managed the work by the contractors. David Gargula, Walsh Engineering Inc. provided the specifications and supervised the construction of the parking lot, storm water management, the paved trail, and Dave created many other detailed plans utilized throughout the project. Thank you.

Thank you to the Eagle Scout candidates for their work on this project site: Charlie Trouba, Troop 10, and Connor Firor, Troop 62.

The following contractors provided services to create this greenway:

- Londonderry Nurseries, Inc., Cochranville, PA: Meadow Planting and Tree Establishment
- Derryl Mills Excavating, Inc., Wilmington, DE: Parking Lot and Hard Surface Trail
- All Seasons Landscaping Co., Inc., Aston, PA: Interpretive Garden Plantings
- Land-Tech Enterprises, Inc., Warrington, PA: Woodland Walkway
- Martin's Quality Home Improvements, Nottingham, PA: Overlook Deck
- Recreation Resources, Inc., Kennett Square, PA: Park Amenities and Donated Bench
- Jake Miller, Toughkenamon, PA: Pavers at Kiosk and at Overlook Deck
- Fence Authority, West Chester, PA: Fence

The Mason-Dixon Greenway South project was funded by London Britain Township with assistance from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund administered by the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Grant funds were also provided by the Municipal Grants Program, Commissioners of Chester County, PA.

Nette Stejskal, Township Treasurer/Project Coordinator



Inside this issue:

- **Emergency Planning**
- **WGFC: Call for Volunteers**
- **Mason Dixon Greenway/South open to use**
- **News and Notes**

London Britain Township
P. O. Box 215
Kemblesville, PA 19347

LBT Receives County Citation

London Britain Township was recognized for its open space preservation programs with a special citation from Chester County's commissioners. It reads:

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Chester

Recognizes the municipal leaders and residents of

LONDON BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

for their commitment to protecting the natural resources and quality of life of their community.



London Britain Township has been a valued partner to Chester County in the execution of the County's Landscapes and Landscapes2 plans. The municipality has preserved more than 2,100 acres and actively pursued its long term vision of completing its section of the Mason Dixon Greenway, ultimately linking the White Clay Creek Preserve of Pennsylvania and the White Clay State Park of Delaware with the Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area in Maryland.

The board of Commissioners, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania commends the leaders and citizens of London Britain Township for their dedication to the preservation of natural and agricultural lands, which are essential to the health and beauty of the Wild and Scenic White Clay Creek.

Signed:
 Board of Commissioners
 Terence Farrell, Kathi Cozzone, and Ryan Costello

Dated October 25, 2011

Meadowset Farm Permanently Protected

Near the bridge at North Creek and Mercer Mill roads is Meadowset Farm. It's where the East Friesland and Lacaune sheep graze the broad rolling hills as the waters of the White Clay Creek tumble past. These 25 acres are now permanently preserved.

The property's owners, Thomas and Barbara Schaar, recently placed a conservation easement on the property through the Natural Lands Trust in Media, Pa.

"This property is a significant part of what is becoming a broader protected area," says Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands Trust. "The White Clay Creek Watershed is home to wetlands, forests and diverse plant and animal species that are essential to our region's ecological health and sustainability."

"It is a privilege for us to carry on the tradition of farming at Meadowset Farm," says Thomas. "We strive to be good farmers by practicing sustainability, and we are proud to be stewards of the land for the future generations that will farm after us."

The Schaaers run a grass-based sheep dairy on the farm and have bee colonies that produce honey, pollen and beeswax. The property contains open meadows, mature woodlands and wetlands.

Preservation of the Schaar property was made possible by generous support from the landowners, Chester County, London Britain Township, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation.

"We are grateful to the landowners, public officials and community leaders who have been our partners in preserving this important watershed," says Morrison.

