



Hopewell Township

York County, Pennsylvania

Newsletter

SUMMER - 2013

ATTENTION: PROPERTY OWNERS WITH A SEPTIC SYSTEM OR CESSPOOL

With the new regulations governing the maintenance of on-lot sewage systems approaching, the Hopewell Township Supervisors are hosting a public informational meeting, followed by a question and answer session for all residents to attend. This meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7:00 PM** in the Hopewell Township Municipal Building Meeting Room. (This is the same location as where you vote). Speakers will include Mark Malarich, the engineer who prepared the Act 537 Update required by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, and Ethan Poe, Hopewell Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO). We urge you to attend.

The following information may help some residents understand more about septic systems and how the new regulations, that will go into effect on January 1, 2014, will prove beneficial to the health of your on-lot sewage systems.

Components of a septic system

- **Septic Tank**

The septic tank is designed to separate solids and liquids. It provides treatment to the sewage and delivers effluent to the absorption area. Within a septic tank solids (the heaviest matter) settle to the bottom and are called sludge. Fats and greases rise to the top and are called scum. The liquid between these two layers is effluent, which flows out into the absorption area (drain field).

- **Absorption area**

The absorption area may be in the form of a sand mound, in-ground, at-grade or cesspool. There are also some alternate absorption areas that are less commonly used in this area. The absorption area is designed to further treat the effluent that comes from the septic tank and deliver it to the ground water.

Maintenance

A septic tank must be pumped to remove the sludge and scum to prevent excess build up, which will cause solids to travel out of the tank and into the absorption area, which can clog the pores in the soil and ultimately cause the absorption area to malfunction. When a septic tank is

pumped it is important to pump it through the largest access port in the tank. Never pump a septic tank through the 4" or 6" inspection port, as this will only allow a small amount of cleaning to take place. The hauler should also inspect the baffles within the tank during the cleaning.

Tips for prolonged system life

- Install low flush toilets and water saving fixtures
- Spread out laundry as to not overload your system at one time
- Do not put grease and solids down the drain
- Only put things in the toilet that belong there. No diapers, feminine hygiene products or cigarette butts
- Never allow vehicles or heavy equipment to travel over the absorption area

Maintenance program

As part of the D.E.P. required Act 537 Plan, Hopewell Township has adopted a maintenance plan effective in January 2014. All residences with on-lot septic systems must have their septic tanks pumped every four years. The Township has been separated into four quadrants and you will receive a letter when it's your time to pump. Also, you will be required to add a 24" inside diameter manhole riser to extend to within one foot of finished grade. Once the tank has been pumped by a licensed hauler, they must fill out a manifest report and provide a copy to the Township Office within 30 days of the date pumped. If your tank has been pumped within one year of the time you receive your

pumping notice you can provide written proof of such pumping and will not be required to pump that year. If your home is served by a cesspool, you will have the option to have the Sewage Enforcement Officer do a visual inspection of your property rather than pumping the cesspool.

Please make every effort to have someone from your family attend the meeting on September 25th.



5TH ANNUAL STEWARTSTOWN FALL FEST

This year's Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 9AM-4PM at the Stewartstown Fairgrounds.

Come join in on a day of art, crafts, live music, food and other fun activities for all.

Hopewell Area Recreation & Parks, the Stewartstown Lions Club and the Stewartstown Lioness Club are hosting this event.

Visit www.stfallfest.org for information and forms for sponsorships and vendor booths.



ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

If you are dropping off an extra large or heavy item and will require help unloading, call ahead and we will arrange to have someone available to assist you.

RECYCLING

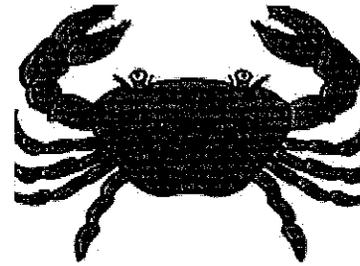
The Township no longer has the small, square recycling bins. We do have plenty of the large, round ones.

If you prefer to use a smaller container or one with a lid, you may pick up a sticker from the Township Office and place it on any receptacle you wish to use for recycling. Or we will be glad to mail it to you, if you wish.

We suggest you write your name and/or address on the outside of the bin in case it blows away from your home.

If you have one of the smaller recycling bins that you are no longer using, you can return it to the Township Office.

NOTE: IF YOU PLAN TO PUT OUT A BULK ITEM ON FRIDAY THAT CONTAINS FREON, YOU MUST CALL PENN WASTE IN ADVANCE (717) 767-4456). COMMON FREON ITEMS ARE: AIRCONDITIONERS, DEHUMIDIFIERS, FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS.



EUREKA CRAB FEED

This will be held at Eureka Fire Hall on Saturday, October 5, 2013. Steamed crabs and many side dishes, desserts and beverages will be available. Plus door prizes and drawings.

ROAD SAFETY

The road crew appreciates reports from the public about potholes and/or damaged or missing road signs. Please contact the Township Office if you encounter any type of road problem.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Hopewell Township was awarded reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$202,133.19. This is for replacement of the bridge on Forest Road damaged by Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011.