

AVONDALE BOROUGH



2015 WINTER NEWSLETTER



January 2015



From the Mayor's Desk:

The Halloween Parade down Morris Alley to SERVPRO was held on October 31, 2014 at 5:30. The attendance was good and the children had a great time. Children in different age groups and one adult received gift certificates for best Costumes. The best pet costume went to Chopper the Dog. There were Goodie bags for each person in attendance given out at SERVPRO.

The Christmas Tree lighting was held on December 3, 2014 at SERVPRO and First Street. The theme was "Dancing in the Street" performed by the Illuminations Performance Company from the Karen Myers Studio. The kids did a great job. The Choir from the Church of Galilee on Third Street opened the program. The Choir from the Presbyterian Church on Pennsylvania Avenue led a "Sing Along" of Christmas Songs for which the crowd joined in. The grand event that pleased all the kids was the arrival of Santa Claus on a Fire Truck. He listened to the children's wish list for hours. Mrs. Claus was also available to help Santa with the program. Cookies and Hot Chocolate were served. Attendance was good but we need more people to attend these yearly events.

Also, the week before Christmas Santa's elves roamed around town to pick out two of the best decorated houses. 408 Pennsylvania Avenue won First prize and 203 Chatham Street won 2nd prize. Prizes were gift certificates to a local restaurant.

These events could not happen if we did not have support of the Avondale Fire Company Firefighters and Fire Police to keep us safe. We had the Parkesburg Police Officers to protect our safety as well. The SERVPRO Family and Associates gave us a venue to hold these events including providing a great tree wonderfully decorated for the tree lighting and cookies and hot chocolate. If you come into contact with these great volunteers, please thank them for their service to the community and wish them well.

Please check your newsletters for events for 2015 and mark your calendars. We are the little town that can.....

Mayor Doris (Dottie) Howell



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL PROJECTS: What a Homeowner Needs to Know

What is stormwater and why is it a problem?

Stormwater is rainfall that runs off of roofs, driveways, lawns, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, farm fields, and other surfaces created or disturbed by manmade activities. This runoff picks up pollutants (such as dirt, oil, litter, pesticides, fertilizer, etc.) as it flows across these surfaces, and eventually enters local streams. While rainfall is natural, stormwater is manmade.

84% of Chester County's watersheds are sources of public drinking water.

55% of Chester County's streams are listed as "impaired" (polluted) by stormwater.

Large volumes of stormwater overwhelm, erode and pollute local streams, and flood low lying areas. To lessen these destructive stormwater impacts and help ensure any existing problems do not worsen, municipalities across Chester County have adopted new stormwater management ordinance standards. These new standards are a key tool in reducing these stormwater impacts, safeguarding properties from flooding and erosion, and protecting streams and local water quality.

Why is stormwater management important?

The purpose of stormwater management is to protect property, infrastructure and streams from destructive stormwater impacts by ensuring rain can be absorbed close to where it falls, thereby reducing the volume of runoff. By controlling stormwater runoff from new impervious and disturbed surfaces on individual properties, we can:

- protect downstream properties, roads and infrastructure – from increased erosion and flooding.
- protect water quality – in our streams and reservoirs to provide clean water for drinking, businesses, farming, and swimming, and for fish and other aquatic living resources.

Without effective stormwater management, problems caused by too much runoff, erosion and pollutants (such as sediment, nutrients and bacteria) become very difficult and costly for property owners and communities to fix.

How will the updated stormwater standards help reduce these problems?

In decades past, local stormwater management was designed without regard to the cumulative impact of runoff on downstream properties and streams. To address this and the future increase in population and development across Chester County's watersheds, updated stormwater management ordinance standards were necessary to meet state and federal requirements. The updated standards require new development and redevelopment projects (large and small) to be constructed in a way that maintains or reduces the amount of stormwater that leaves the site; this will help reduce the cumulative impacts of flooding and erosion on downgradient properties and streams. It will also help keep our waters clean that serve as a critical source of public drinking water.

The best approach to minimize flooding and improve water quality is to allow rain to be absorbed close to where it falls – reducing stormwater runoff.



How can stormwater runoff be minimized for a small project?

The first step is to discuss your planned project with your municipal engineer or zoning officer to determine what requirements apply to your project. Then, design your small project with the least amount of impervious surface and the minimum amount of area to be disturbed (or compacted during construction). The third step is to mimic nature by allowing the rain to be absorbed close to where it falls. This is accomplished by installing one or more stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that will capture and absorb the stormwater generated by the proposed project, and minimize any increase in the amount of stormwater runoff flowing off of the property.

What stormwater BMPs can be used for small projects?

Examples of BMPs that are generally suitable for small projects can include features such as infiltration trenches, an attractive rain garden, permeable pavers for patio installations, rain barrels or a cistern, or a rainwater infiltration border along a driveway planted with attractive wildflowers. More than one of these BMPs may be used in combination to address other more significant drainage or stormwater problems on the property.



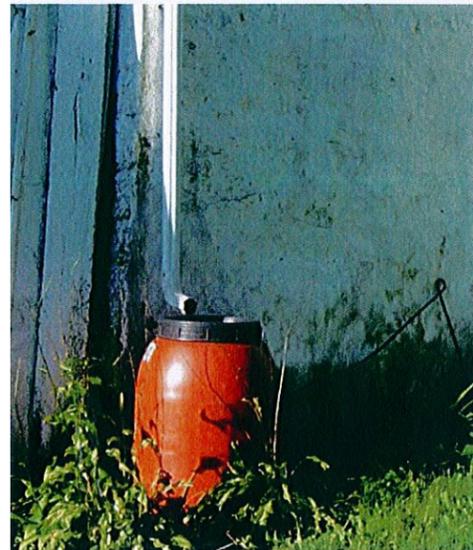
This rain garden helps absorb more stormwater than the mowed lawn that surrounds it. (photo credit – Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association)

How should a stormwater BMP be chosen?

Before choosing a BMP, consult with your municipality, as they may prefer one type of BMP or not allow a particular BMP. Homeowners will need to understand the function of the chosen BMP and homeowners will be responsible for completing ongoing inspections and maintenance. Just as a house requires routine inspection and upkeep, so too will your chosen BMP(s). Without proper maintenance these BMPs will not function effectively, or they may stop functioning. A BMP can be costly to repair and its failure will contribute to downstream flooding, erosion and pollution.

Where can I learn more about stormwater BMPs for homeowner projects?

The first step is to speak with your municipality to better understand all requirements and limitations regarding small projects. The internet has many excellent resources. A collection of some of these helpful resources and links can be found on the following webpage: www.chesco.org/water/stormwater_management.



Rain barrels capture roof runoff. With a soaker hose attached, this BMP can also help your garden survive drier periods.

Chester County Board of Commissioners

Ryan Costello
Kathi Cozzone
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West Chester, PA 19380
(610) 344-5400
wauth@chesco.org
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FROM THE DESK OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR BILL SHORE:



Exposing an Invisible Killer

A Factsheet on the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Each year in America, unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning claims more than 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

WHERE DOES CARBON MONOXIDE COME FROM?

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

WHAT ACTIONS DO I TAKE IF MY CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM GOES OFF?

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not.

IF NO ONE IS FEELING ILL:

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

IF ILLNESS IS A FACTOR:

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling ill.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM CO POISONING

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed

to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.

- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.

- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.

- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.

- When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

For more information contact:

The U. S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

or
Visit the USFA Web site:
www.usfa.fema.gov



Borough of Avondale
Established 1894

Mayor
Dottie Howell

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Bill Shore - President
Steve Cummings - Vice President
Abby Pyle
Wilson Lysle
Dave Besselman

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Treasurer: Sandy Masten

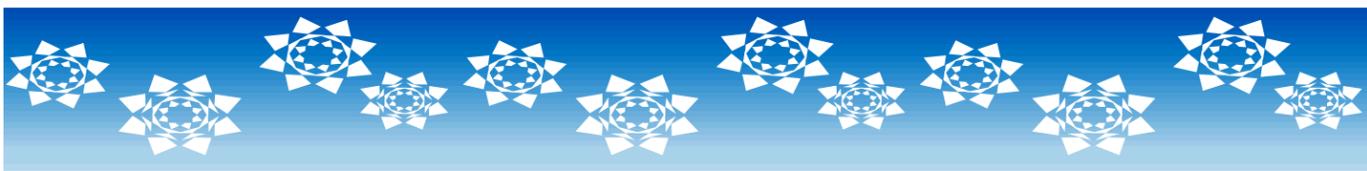
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Contact the Borough Office if you would like a newsletter mailed to you. Newsletter is available on Borough's website or at the Borough Office



AVONDALE BOROUGH WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AWARD



Pictured above: Chester County Commissioner Terence Farrell presents a check to Avondale: L to R: Council Member Wilson Lysle, Borough Engineer Jamie MacCombie, Mayor Dottie Howell, Commissioner Terence Farrell, Council President Bill Shore

Chester County, through the Department of Community Development, awarded \$621,912 in 2014 Community Revitalization Program funds to Avondale for water system improvements.

On Thursday, October 30, 2014, a check was presented by County Commissioner Terence Farrell to Avondale Borough Officials.

The Project will include installing a supply well, two monitoring wells, construction of a small building to house the hypochlorite liquid injection system, a variable speed motor drive for the supply well, and electrical panels. New main water lines will also be extended.

The new well, pump and expanded capacity will upgrade outdated water supply infrastructure, delivering adequate amounts of water to meet consumer consumption and sufficient water supply for fire safety.

AVONDALE BOROUGH
110 Pomeroy Avenue
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Avondale, PA 19311



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EARNED INCOME TAX INFORMATION

It's that time of year again. Your 2014 local earned income tax return is due on April 15.

Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can e-file on our tax administrator's secure website, which is available 24/7 at www.KeystoneCollects.com.

Keystone Collections Group's e-file is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2014 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

Please note that the forms changed this year. If you will be claiming an out-of-state tax credit or if you work in Philadelphia, you may be eligible for a local earned income tax credit up to the amount you owe to your resident municipality. The worksheet on the back of the form will help you calculate your out-of-state tax credit (attach a copy of your out-of-state filing).

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline** at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions to "Taxpayer Support" at www.KeystoneCollects.com.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month at 6:00 P.M. Due to Election Day, the May Council meeting will be held on May 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. If you have anything you would like to discuss at the meeting - please call the Borough Office no later than the Friday before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Water and Sewer Committee meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Please come to this meeting if you have a question or a concern about water or sewer.

WATER & SEWER EMERGENCY

If you have a water or sewer emergency Call:

610-268-2498

Someone is on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

DO YOU RENT, LEASE ANY UNITS IN YOUR DWELLING?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO SELL YOUR HOME?



If you answered yes to either question then you are required under Ordinance #246 to register your property and get a inspection.

Applications and Ordinance #246 are available at the Borough Office or on

REAL ESTATE TAXES

Borough Council adopted Tax Ordinance #247 on December 16, 2014. There is no increase in real estate taxes.

Following are the current tax rates:
Real Estate Tax—3.55 mills for general purposes.
Street Lighting—.45 mills
Real Estate Transfer Tax—1%
Earned Income Tax—1%

SNOW STORMS

Please remember to shovel your sidewalks. Borough Ordinance #77 requires sidewalks to be shoveled within 12 hours of a snow event. Be a good neighbor and ensure the safety of others by keeping your sidewalk clear.



PARK OFF THE STREET

When snow is in the forecast, park your vehicle off the street to allow the snow plows to clear the snow off the roadways. This makes the job easier for Borough personnel and keeps your vehicles from being plowed in and decreases the chances of your vehicle being damaged.

COMPOSTING FACILITY

The composting facility will re-open in the Spring. More information to follow in the Spring Newsletter

Borough Office
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