

## News, Resources, Current Events and Other Information for Residents and Property Owners of West Chillisquaque Township -- Northumberland County

**WELCOME!!!** ...to the first edition of the WestChilli-News.

**WHY?** -- At the request of numerous residents and as a method supervisors thought would help improve communication and provide you with more information, we are instituting a Newsletter on a trial basis.

**WHO?** -- This newsletter is being sent to all registered property owners and/or those who pay personal taxes to the township. Are you a landlord and would like your tenants to know? Please make sure we have their email address or address and we'll add them to the list.

**HOW?** -- We are initially sending this out via postal mail. If you'd like to receive it by email, please see the back page for more information.

**WHEN?** -- We plan to issue this newsletter quarterly. If you have suggestions as to frequency and why, please let us know.

**BOTTOM LINE** -- This is YOUR newsletter. Please let us know what you'd like to hear about. We will make every effort to provide you with the latest news and information. As always, if any questions, please ask!!

*Would you like to name this newsletter? -- if so, let us know*

### **"Who Ya Gonna Call??"**

The following are phone numbers you may find useful for Township business and issues (570 Area Code):

Township Municipal Building – 523-3911

*This is an un-staffed office – leave a message and your call will be returned in several business days or call one of the other numbers below as appropriate.*

Township Maintenance Building/Roadmaster 742-8102

Township Supervisors:

Vaughn Murray, Chairman 524-0460

Doug Everitt, Vice Chair 524-2745

Willard Miller, Supervisor 524-9777

Code Enforcement/Zoning Permits

Richard Wolfe 524-0390 (leave message)

Building Permits

Light-Heigel and Associates – 524-7742

Sewage Enforcement Officer (septic systems)

James Sanders – 922-1218

Milton Regional Sewer Authority (public sewer)

742-3424

Township Secretary/Municipal Services Tax

Cherie Boyer – 524-9889

Township Treasurer

Clyde Boyer – 524-9889

Township Real Estate Tax Collector

William Phillips – 742-1490

## How Local Gov't Works:

*This is a regular column where we will explain how various parts of Local Government work. Please stay tuned for more topics.*

West Chillisquaque is a Second Class Township, organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A series of rules and regulations govern how we operate. Many of them are consolidated into what is known as the Second Class Township Code. This describes the various authorities and responsibilities of local government.

A board of three supervisors elected for six-year alternating terms is responsible for administering and legislating local regulations of the Township.

Montandon is not an official entity of Local Government. It is an unincorporated village and local US Post Office. While we often think of ourselves as the "Community of Montandon", remember that your official center of local government is West Chillisquaque Township.

**Help Wanted:** The William Cameron Engine Company, one of three fire departments serving our township is looking for two **Community Liaison Representatives**. If you are interested, please contact the Township Secretary at 524-9889.

### **Emergency Management**

**Coordinator:** The Township is looking for a new volunteer EMA Coordinator as well as Assistants. Previous related experience is preferred, but not required. All necessary training will be provided. Please contact Supervisor Vaughn Murray if interested at 524-0460.

## Current Events/Announcements:

**Montandon Community Days** – Please mark your calendar to participate in the 2010 version of this event held May 29-31.

**2010 US Census** – Remember, 2010 is time for the US Census. Please make sure you accurately complete the forms when you receive them. You may not think it is important, but it is critical that every resident is counted so that we are properly represented. The most important thing to remember is that various funding to the township is based on population.

**Traffic Counting** – PennDOT asks us to notify all residents that they will do traffic counting on township roads throughout 2010. The data will be used by the federal government to determine a funding allocation formula.

*Have something you'd like announced; just let us know.*

## Upcoming Changes:

The Township is considering the following changes to local rules and regulations. They will be discussed at regular Township Meetings. Public participation is always encouraged.

One major upcoming change will deal with burning. We received many complaints about burning and drafted a new Ordinance. Strong reaction at this meeting was "anti-any-burning-ordinance". We want to make sure we hear from ALL residents.

We'll stress, there are NO PLANS FOR A COMPLETE BAN. As of now, we are heading in a direction of certainly banning the burning of plastics and other types of trash. Only wood/paper products can be burned. Please provide us with your thoughts and be on the look-out for further information including a special public meeting. If you have an opinion EITHER WAY, we need to hear from you.

Upcoming Regular Township Supervisor Meetings:  
Monday March 8 at **6:00 p.m.**  
Monday April 5 at 7:00 p.m.  
Monday May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I am building or placing a structure on my property. What do I need to do?

A: This is one of the most common questions and one that can have different answers based on what you are doing. It is always best to consult the Zoning Officer or one of the Supervisors before placing any structure (including portable structures) or making an addition to a structure. In general, there are rules to follow no matter what you are doing. Even the smallest swing set or dog house must meet certain regulations. However those type of structures under 144 square feet do not require a permit, but must meet setback and FloodPlain requirements. Most other situations require a Zoning Permit. If you are building a structure, you will likely need a Building Permit as well.

Q: I live in the flood zone and want to add on or upgrade my property, what rules impact me?

A: The National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) have developed a set of regulations for building/upgrading properties in defined flood zones to mitigate further future damage. In order for properties in the Township to qualify for flood insurance, we had to adopt and must enforce certain regulations. Please contact the Zoning Officer or Supervisors for more information and stay tuned for additional information in future issues.

Q: I own property (such as a private home) and it has been used for a certain purpose for 50 years. I want to know if I can use it for something else, such as a small business. What do I do?

A: You should contact the Zoning Officer or one of the Supervisors. You may want to review the Zoning Ordinance Book. To protect all property owners, the Township implemented a Zoning Ordinance in 1979. This has been amended over the years, and continues to be a work in progress. More information on zoning will be discussed in future issues.

Q: What's the Difference between a Zoning Permit and a Building Permit?

A: A Zoning Permit is required when you build, place or modify a structure or also if you are changing the use of a structure (such as converting from residential to commercial, including opening a business in your home). If you have any question as to whether you need one of these permits, please contact Richard Wolfe, Zoning Officer at 570-524-0390 and leave a message. Your call will be returned promptly. After obtaining a Zoning Permit, you will need a Building Permit for most types of construction, such as building a house, adding a deck or adding a room. In general, only certain non-occupied out-buildings and agricultural buildings are exempt from needing a Building Permit. You will need a Zoning Permit or note from the Zoning Officer that none is required before you will be issued a Building Permit. Building Permits are a State Law and administered in our Township by Light-Heigel and Associates at 142 Main Street Montandon or 570-524-7742.

Next Issue: It's MY property – why are there so many rules??

Have a question? Submit it to us via email @ [WCcomment@dejazzd.com](mailto:WCcomment@dejazzd.com) or by mail at PO Box 252 Montandon

WEST CHILLISQUAQUE TOWNSHIP  
485 RAILROAD STREET  
PO BOX 252  
MONTANDON PA 17850

«Name»  
«Addr1»  
«Addr2»  
«City»

**Want a Green Newsletter?** If you'd like to save the township (and ultimately YOU the taxpayer) the cost of postage and paper, we'd be happy to remove you from our mailing list and send you this newsletter in an electronic PDF format. Simply mail us this form or email us at: [WCcomment@dejazzd.com](mailto:WCcomment@dejazzd.com) and provide the following information:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you simply do not want to receive this letter, you may email, mail or leave a message at the Township at 523-3911. Please leave a phone number so we can confirm your request.

If you know of anyone not receiving this newsletter, please send us the info via email, mail or telephone and we will add them to the list.

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### Survey Question of the Month:

This month is a very open ended question. Please tell us what you think of the newsletter. This can include whether you like it or not, what you like or don't like about it, and any suggestions you have for future editions of the newsletter.

Please submit your reply via email to [WCcomment@dejazzd.com](mailto:WCcomment@dejazzd.com) or mail or drop off to the Township.