



*Established 1725*

# London Britain Township Newsletter

**Chester County, Pennsylvania**

**Fall 2009**

## Tips for Home Security

1. Exterior doors should be metal or solid wood with strong door hinges on the inside.
2. Use strong reliable locks and deadbolts on all exterior doors.
3. Lock doors and close windows, even for short trips away from home.
4. For sliding glass doors, install keyed locking devices that secure the door to the frame or put a piece of wood or metal bar into the track of the closed door.
5. Drill an angled hole into the top frame of the lower window partially into the frame of the upper window and insert a nail or pin into the hole. This prevents the window from being pried open from the outside.
6. Secure basement windows with grills or grates.
7. Interior lights give the illusion of someone being home. Use timers to automatically turn on lights in the evening when no one is home.
8. Exterior lights make it harder for someone to hide. Place lights at all entrances and around the property.
9. Motion-sensing lights can be used effectively, to light exterior areas.
10. Trim shrubbery away from doors and windows to provide maximum visibility of your house.
11. Trim tree limbs away from house to keep intruders from climbing trees to gain access to the upper levels of your home.
12. Instead of hiding keys around the outside of your house, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
13. When traveling, leave your blinds, shades, and curtains in normal positions.
14. Do not let mail and newspapers pile up outside when you are away. Ask a neighbor to collect them.

## Take a Bite out of Crime in LBT

The incident of theft from cars and homes in London Britain Township is on the rise, especially over the past six months. It is something to be aware of, but not a cause for alarm.

The Township invited Corporal Corey Monthei, of the Pennsylvania State Police, Avondale Barracks to talk about crime prevention and the possibility of starting Neighborhood Watch programs in our community.

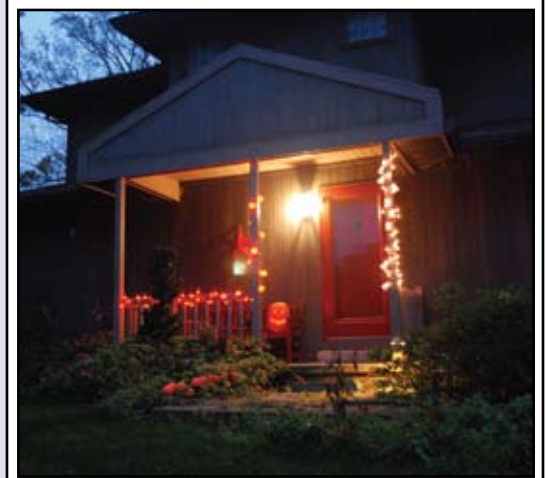
In this issue of the London Britain Township Newsletter, we want to share some suggestions he had and some information he brought from the National Crime Prevention Council that you can do to make your home and car less desirable to burglars.

First, keep your car locked, even in your own driveway. Do not leave keys in the car. Burglars are entering unlocked cars in driveways and opened garages and easily removing the contents inside. Keep valuables, such as wallets, purses, cell phones, electronic devices, cash, GPS units and computers out of sight, and preferably out of the car.

Keeping valuables out of sight in your car when parked in public locations is also recommended as break-ins are happening at local shopping centers, church and school parking lots, too.

Burglars are entering garages and stealing tools, bikes, and other items normally stored in this area. When not at home, close and lock your garage doors. Think about closing garage doors when you are home too, as a burglar could easily slip in and out undetected and take some of your belongings.

"Making your home safer from crime doesn't always mean having to install



*Doing simple things, such as having exterior lighting near entryways and keeping landscaping away from windows and doors, deter burglary.*

expensive alarms—effective home security starts with properly locked doors and windows and visible, well-lighted entryways," states the National Crime Prevention Center's Lock Crime Out pamphlet. "Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds to try breaking into a home. Good locks—and good neighbors who watch out for each other—can be big deterrents to burglars. Tips for improving security at your home are in the box at left.

Neighborhood or Block Watch programs are another good deterrent to crime. The PA State Police will work with interested neighborhoods to organize Watch programs. The Township is willing to organize an informational meeting about Neighborhood Watch if people in our community are interested. Please call Carolyn, at 610-255-0388 for more details.

Corporal Monthei left a variety of information at the Township Office on the topic of crime prevention, identity theft, and Neighborhood Watch programs. Stop by to pick up more detailed information.

## *North Creek Bridge Replacement and Detour*

PennDOT is replacing the North Creek Bridge, near North Creek and Mercer Mill roads. The bridge and connecting roads were closed on November 2, with work scheduled to begin shortly thereafter. It is expected to take eight months to complete the project and PennDOT expects the roads and bridge to be reopened by July 12, 2010.

The 96-year-old steel bridge is structurally deficient with a weight limit of five tons. A 24-foot wide (two 10-foot lanes with 2-foot shoulders) concrete beam structure will replace the current 18-foot steel structure. According to PennDOT, "The abutments and walls of the new bridge will be adorned with a stone form liner so the structure blends

in with its surrounding environment."

The \$709,300 cost is one-hundred percent funded through state funds. Pennsy Supply of Hummelstown, Pa. is the general contractor for the project.

PennDOT posted the following detour notice: During construction of the new bridge, North Creek Road motorists will follow the posted detour of Route 841, Flint Hill Road and Good Hope Road to travel from one side of the creek to the other. A detour also will go into effect on Mercer Mill Road because it will be closed at North Creek Road. Mercer Mill Road drivers will be detoured over Flint Hill Road, Good Hope Road and North-bank Road.

### **Annual Reminders:**

#### **On Lot Sewage Tank Pumping**

Residents with on lot sewage disposal are required to pump every three years for septic and every year for cesspool (alternate systems must check with Chester County Health Department guidelines). If your property is due for pumping, the deadline for submitting a receipt to the Township is December 31, 2009.

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 paperwork was received. Any questions please give us a call.

#### **Roadside trimming**

Vegetation growing into a road is dangerous. Branches cause trucks and cars to swerve into oncoming lanes to avoid damaging the vehicle. Shrubs, flowers, and grasses, whether planted on purpose or growing wild, cause sight line problems for vehicles entering roads.

Fall is the season when the Township's road crews trim back the yearly growth. It is recommended that property owners take the time to trim vegetation and branches on their property. If it is not done by the property owner, then the road crew will trim at their discretion.

### **Deer Feeder Hosts Needed**

A host property is needed in the Parsons Road/Good Hope Road (between Route 896 and Flint Hill Road) area.

The insecticide/arachnicide, permethrin, is applied to deer who eat the corn in the deer feeder to kill deer ticks, which transmits Lyme disease to humans.

Families who host a deer feeder are responsible for filling the feeder with corn and insecticide. When possible the Township supplies corn.

Call Janie Schnelle at 610-274-8347 for more information.

### **Mason-Dixon Greenway**

The Mason-Dixon Greenway Committee is progressing on three items:

1. Plans are proceeding on the location of trails along the Mason-Dixon Greenway.
2. A planting plan for an interpretive garden near the Flint Hill parking lot is in review.
3. A reforestation plan for throughout the Greenway is in final review.

Once these plans are finalized the projects will be put out for bid. Grant funds will cover much of the cost.

Site improvements for the parking lot should begin early next spring.

## **Invasive Species Removal Day Returning in 2010**

The London Britain Township Land Trust is planning on having an Invasive Species Removal Day some Saturday in late January to early February.

This is a great opportunity to help the Land Trust remove invasive species on Township open space, as well as to learn about how to remove invasive species on your property.

If interested in helping, call Carolyn at the Township Office and request to be placed on the notification list, or send an email with "Invasive Species Removal Day" in the subject line.

When the date is selected you will then be notified. Also check the website beginning mid-January. The date and meeting place will be posted there.

## **The New Chester County Special Needs Registry**

The Special Needs Registry is a coordinated effort at the county level to better identify those in our community who are most at risk during a disaster.

According to the Special Needs Registry website, "For the purpose of this project, a special needs individual is someone who cannot receive, understand or act upon emergency protective orders."

Anyone with an issue or condition that might cause them to need extra help in an evacuation or other disaster situation should register online at:

[www.specialneedspa.org](http://www.specialneedspa.org).

The information provided is confidential and will remain private. It can only be accessed by the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator and the Chester County Department of Emergency Services for the purpose of emergency response and planning.

Residents with questions or want help in registering can call Chuck Freese, LBT's Emergency Management Coordinator through the Township Office- 610-255-0388.

# *A Few Things Related to Waste Disposal and Recycling*

As the area's waste disposal and recycling entity, SECCRA—Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority—is comprised of 24 municipalities, with 90,000 residents. Located at 219 State Street, in West Grove (off Route 41 near its intersection with Route 841 in Cochranville), it offers various services to the community. Highlighted below are a few of its recent changes, to properly dispose of waste and optimize your recycling efforts.

Check out SECCRA's website at [www.seccra.org](http://www.seccra.org) for more tips, suggestions, and details of the information below.

## **Electronics Recycling**

Starting this September, SECCRA is accepting electronics (circuit board TVs, computers, calculators, stereos, etc) for recycling on all days of operation, instead of just one day a year. SECCRA can be reached at 610-869-2452 for questions and further information.

## **Christmas Tree Recycling**

SECCRA will accept Christmas trees

for composting after the holidays. It uses the compost for beneficial projects at the SECCRA Community Landfill, including landscaping. Drop-off will take place during regular hours. Don't forget to tarp and secure your load!

## **Single Stream Recycling**

SECCRA is making recycling even easier with its new single-stream recycling program. There's no need to separate recyclables anymore, as all paper, glass, aluminum, and cardboard can be mixed in the same container.

The types of paper products accepted for recycling has changed over the years. The Chester County Solid Waste Authority created a list of acceptable and non-acceptable paper products. Clip out the box at right as a handy reminder of what types of paper products can and cannot be recycled.

Check out Chester County Solid Waste Authority's website: [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org) for more recycling information.

## **YES! Please Recycle:**

- Phone Books • Magazines • Catalogs • Brochures • Newspapers
- Paper Bags (empty, clean) • Mail • Junk Mail (labels, window OK) • Miscellaneous Home/Office/School Paper (copy, fax, computer, tablet, post-it notes, flyers, construction paper, folders)
- Books (without hard covers)
- Box Board (remove liners, flattened, cut oversize)
- Corrugated Cardboard

## **No-- Do not recycle:**

- Tissues • Towels, • Napkins • Wax Paper • Milk Cartons • Juice Boxes • Food-Contaminated Paper • Frozen Food Boxes or Cans • Pet Food Bags • Carbon Paper • Hard Covers of Books • Photographs
- Plastic Envelopes (Tyvek, Federal Express, Photo) • Plastic Bags • Plastic Liners • Disposable Diapers



## **Pennsylvania's New Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act**

On July 1, the new Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act went into effect. It requires all contractors doing more than \$5,000 of work per year in the state of Pennsylvania register with the Attorney General's office.

Attorney General Tom Corbett explains, "The intent of the act is to protect consumers from unscrupulous contractors, to provide new protection for consumers who hire home improvement contractors and to authorize criminal penalties for home improvement fraud."

Currently there are over 32,000 registered contractors in Pennsyl-

vania. The Attorney General's office maintains an online database of all registered contractors, which can be accessed at [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) or by calling toll-free 1-888-520-6680. Information for each contractor includes:

- Contact and insurance information;
- A description of the company;
- Information on any prior home improvement businesses;
- Names of anyone with an interest in the business;
- Any contractor licenses;
- Bankruptcy, criminal plea and conviction history;

- A map showing where the business is located;

The registration numbers contractors receive after successfully completing the registration process (and included on the website) are now required documentation when applying for building permits in London Britain Township.

A pamphlet about the new Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Information Act is available upon request at the Township Building. As always, call the Township (610-255-0388) with questions about this requirement or any other permitting matter.

# London Britain's News and Notes

## NUISANCE ORDINANCE ADOPTED

At the August 24, 2009 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the Township's Nuisance Ordinance was adopted. It declares nuisances which are illegal and prohibits certain animal noises. The ordinance also prescribes penalties for violation. If residents are interested in learning about the ordinance and how it is enforced, please contact the Township Office at 610-255-0388.

## 2010 BUDGET AND TAXES

The Board of Supervisors will have its 2010 preliminary budget ready for public review around November 20. The official budget hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 14, with an alternate date of December 21. Check the website for exact dates.

Township tax bills are sent to property owners by February 1. A two-percent discount is applied if paid before April 3. Taxes are due on June 3. Late fees are applied on all taxes paid after June 3.

In some cases, property owners are issued refunds for overpayment. Many times the refund checks go uncashed. LBT's Tax Collector asks that all property owners please cash their refund checks ASAP.

Changes to the tax bill next year should make it easier to understand and pay the proper amount. Changes to the refund policy are being considered to alleviate issuing small refund checks that are not cashed.

Please contact Janie Schnelle at 610-274-8347 with any township-tax related questions or concerns.

## 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 inappropriate please contact the Chester County SPCA at 610-692-6113.

## FIREHOUSE UPDATE

A new requirement that the Township supply a letter of credit to PennDOT before it would issue the required permit to begin the entrance road for the new West Grove Fire Company's substation took a month to receive. That was all it took to delay the project to the spring of 2010. With asphalt plants closing for the season in mid-November, the general contractor could not guarantee being able to finish the project if started later than originally projected.

The good news is that the Township was issued the permit. The general contractor has the entrance on his schedule with a projected start date of March 15, 2010.

Once the entrance road is complete, West Grove Fire Company will be able to build the substation when they are ready.

## SPEED LIMITS ENFORCED

A traffic study has been completed for Good Hope and Chambers Rock roads. The Board of Supervisors will review the study and post recommended signage. Once posted, the PA State Police have agreed to come into the Township on a regular basis to monitor the traffic and enforce the posted speed limits on these roads.

## AVON GROVE LIBRARY

Avon Grove Library's satellite branch at the London Britain Township Meeting Hall is open on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Satellite Branch holds a small collection of books for children and adults and DVDs. Check it out.

For information about all the services available at the Avon Grove Library go online to [www.avongrovelibrary.org](http://www.avongrovelibrary.org).

## TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

London Britain Township's office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

London Britain Township's Zoning Officer, Dave Gargula, has additional office hours by appointment. Please call him at 302-218-7173 to arrange a convenient time to meet.

## Township Directory

### Board of Supervisors

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

### Staff

Carolyn Matalon -  
*Secretary and Parks Manager*  
Dave Gargula - *Zoning Officer*  
Joe Ferguson - *Roadmaster*  
John Dennis, Dan Tracey, Steven Henry - *Road Crew*  
Pat Walsh, Walsh Eng. - *Township Engineer*  
Janie Schnelle - *Tax Collector*  
Annette Stejskal - *Treasurer*

### Contact Info

#### Office/Meeting Hall/Garage:

81 Good Hope Rd.  
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](http://www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov)

#### Email:

[carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net](mailto: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 cancelled 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.*

# Who is using Nichol Park?

With the completion of the Phase II at Nichol Park the parking lot never seems to be empty, at least on nice days. All sorts of people from the very young to senior citizens are taking advantage of all it has to offer. People are coming from LBT and neighboring communities to walk, play, learn to ride a bike, and enjoy a few minutes outdoors. Organized sports teams are practicing on the fields. Even travelers passing through find Nichol Park is a great place for a respite and picnic lunch or dinner. Below are a few ways people are enjoying some time at Nichol Park.



# Winter Weather and Roads

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 Township's Road Crew asks for cooperation by doing the following in preparation for and during road clearing operations:



1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
  4. Remove all rocks from the edge of the road—back at least 3 feet. 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.
  5. Give snowplows a safe driving distance.
  6. 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.

## Good Fall and Winter Practices for Clean Water

Although snow and ice stay on surfaces until the temperature warms enough to melt away, eventually it does turn to water and runs-off into our streams, creeks, and ponds. Snow and ice melt can carry with it the same pollutants as the water after a summer rain.

Therefore it is important to put into practice the following suggestions in order to keep our waterways pollutant free:

1. Compost or remove yard waste this fall.
2. Pick up after your pet, even in cold weather.
3. Use chemicals and fertilizers sparingly to remove ice on sidewalks and driveways.
4. Sweep sand from sidewalks and driveways that was used for traction as the areas begin to thaw.
5. Direct downspouts away from driveways to keep melting snow and ice from running into the street and entering a stream.

**Check out LBT's website: [www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov](http://www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov)**

London Britain Township  
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