



New Garden Township Spring 2008

Chester County, PA

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow New Gardener,

I hope this edition of the New Garden Newsletter finds you and your family doing well. There is a lot happening in our town as you will read or may have seen in your travels around New Garden. A few of the highlights include:

New Garden Town Center

While ground has not yet been broken on the New Garden Town Center, the developer (Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust or PREIT), has been quite active in getting all of its plans and permits approved. PREIT would like to begin site work on the property (187 acres at the corner of Route 41 and Sunny Dell Rd. across from Mr. Mulch) by the middle of this year. The center will include 2-3 large retail stores on Route 41 and a pedestrian "old downtown style" shopping village off of Sunny Dell Rd. While exact tenants are not yet known, PREIT is negotiating with some large "box style" retailers first, and the smaller retailers will follow. There is word that a family entertainment company and a number of restaurants may also become tenants. A WAWA will sit where Mr. Mulch is currently located. When will it open? Best guess right now is late 2009, but don't quote me on that.

Road Improvements

As you may have seen, this Board of Supervisors has taken a very active

role in working to improve some of New Garden's most congested and dangerous intersections in town. While these are large and very costly projects, especially with very limited state PENNDOT funding available, our priorities are Old Baltimore Pike and Newark Road and Newark Road and Route 41. We also continue to work with the PENNDOT bridge division and are now promised that rebuilding of the Landenberg Bridge is scheduled to begin this fall and finish in 2009.

Township Events

New Garden Day—our first in what hopefully will become an annual event. New Garden Day will be held in New Garden Park (just off Rt. 41 behind the police station), on Sunday, May 18th. There will be rides, games, food, and some neighborly fun—you can even dunk your favorite (or least favorite) Supervisor in the dunk tank. This is free to all New Garden residents!

New Garden Air Show—the air show's 36-year history will continue now that the Township owns the airport. Residents can buy discount tickets for the 37th Annual New Garden Air Show at the airport or in the Township building. So mark Sunday, June 15th on your calendar, and after you make breakfast in bed for your Dad on Father's Day, bring him out to the air show!

The New Garden Grower's Market will be opening up again soon—every Saturday morning beginning May 17 through October. Please come out to support our local farmers and craftspeople. Check out our website www.newgarden.org to see a schedule of all the township events.

Enhancement to New Garden Park

The Township received a \$250,000 grant from the Chester County Municipal Grant Program. This money will be used to begin work on increasing the size and facilities at this gem of a public park. The enhancements include additional athletic fields, tennis courts, and walking trails. If you have not been to the park, please take a stroll around it one sunny afternoon; you may be surprised by the facilities and beauty of our own New Garden Park.

Open Space

Our Open Space Review Board has been quite active on a number of fronts. They have been developing a plan for a system of interconnected trails and greenways that will provide pedestrian and bicycle linkages between residential areas, regional trails, parks, open space, and other New Garden destinations. This greenway system will also identify opportunities to provide protection for environmentally sensitive areas. They have also been in negotiations to purchase an easement on a large piece of property on Egypt Run Road. An easement allows a large and attractive piece of land to be used as it currently is, but ensures that it will be kept open forever.

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"From the Chairman" continued

If you have land that you would be interested in keeping open for generations to come, please contact our Open Space Review Board. There can be significant tax benefits to those that do!

New Garden Airport and Technology Park

As was mentioned earlier, New Garden now owns the airport and surrounding land. New Garden purchased the airport primarily with state and federal grant money in order to ensure that the airport remained an airport, but also to develop a business park on the same land. A lot of New Garden's public services—police, fire and emergency services, road maintenance, the park, etc. have been paid for by the many new residential communities that have sprung up all over New Garden over the past decade. But as new home construction slows, in order to keep taxes low (I know that is a relative term), we must replace our tax base with appropriate commercial businesses that support New Garden's financial needs. The airport's proximity to Route 1 makes it an ideal location for businesses.

New Garden Medical Centre

In the northern section of the town, a new medical center is being built. This state-of-the-art facility will include doctor's offices encompassing all specialties, an urgent-care center, imaging facilities, and a day-surgery center. There will also be a very nice hotel located on the property. The medical center is expected to attract some of the best specialists in the area. Similar to the airport, the medical center will also help New Garden increase its tax base. The facility is planned to open in Spring 2009.

Hopefully this gives you a feel for some of the key events and developments in New Garden. I would like to thank all of the staff of New Garden for their hard work and efforts to make New Garden a great place to live and work. On behalf of the other Supervisors—Bob Perrotti, Steve Allaband, Jim Neal, Barclay Hoopes, and myself, please let us know what we can do to make New Garden a great place for you!

Sincerely,

Bob Norris

PS. Please take the time to say "Hello" to a neighbor. It only takes a minute, and it helps in making New Garden the type of place we all want to live in and call home!

Swimming Pool Safety Tips by Don Suckstorf

With the return of warm weather the swimming season is once again upon us. The National Safety Council reports that 600 adults and children drown annually, 330 of which occur in home pools most of which involve children between the ages of one and four. Statistics indicate that most children who drowned in pools were last seen in the home and had been out of sight for less than five minutes while in the care of one or both parents. The Codes Department would like to offer a few safety tips to protect swimmers.

- All pools and spas which have a water depth exceeding 24 inches require a code compliant barrier.
- Doors leading to pool areas are required to be equipped with a code compliant alarm.
- Never swim alone.
- Never leave children unattended.
- Install a phone or keep a cordless phone poolside.
- Learn CPR.
- Enroll children in a swimming lesson at the earliest possible age.
- Mount basic lifesaving equipment such as a pole, rope and personal flotation device near the pool and know how to use them.
- Keep toys away from the pool when not in use, as they have the tendency to attract young children.
- Never leave furniture near pool barriers that could enable a child to climb over the barrier.
- Completely remove pool covers before using the pool.
- Always maintain pool barriers, gates and alarms.
- Post rules by the pool that prohibit running, pushing, dunking or rough housing and enforce them.
- Remember to immediately check the swimming pool if a child is missing.

For a FREE complimentary pool safety inspection you may contact the Codes Department at 610-268-2915 extension 103