

# Conewago Township News

## CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP

### Sewage hookup timelines

- May 6 CMA approved the sewage completion project
- May 14 Board of Supervisors should accept the project as completed in order for DTMA to send out notices for hookups and guidelines.
- May 15 letters go out to connect stating rules and guidelines
- July 30, 2008 all hookups required to be completed.
- May 18, Ribbon cutting at the Elementary School 1:30 p.m.

**Attention : It has been report that this area has had some confirm reports of Rabies.**

There were 25 animal rabies cases reported in Pennsylvania in March 2008

**If you think you have come in contact.**

**The only way to avoid rabies' deadly symptoms is to get medical attention right away.**

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

MAY 12, 2008

## Phase 2 Update

“Out of sight out of mind” and “flush it and forget it” are statements that are sometime used when talking about sewage systems. It is one of those things that we really don't want to think about in our daily lives. However, when it doesn't work or function right it can cause problems for everyone in the house and maybe even the neighborhood. Phase two of the Conewago Township Act 537 Plan of how to deal with the problem of failing sewage systems needed to be addressed. September 14, 2005 was the date the Board of Supervisors adopted the resolution that set in motion the sewage line construction in the area of 743 and Old Hershey Road area including parts of Roundtop and Ridge Roads. This accomplishment just didn't happen, here is a short history.

They said, “It couldn't be done”

“Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update” was part of a Township report dated May 2002. In this update it was stated that a projected one-half of the wells within PA Route 743/ Old Hershey Road were contaminated, based on EPA Standards. The sewage systems in 76% of this study area were classified with “some” type of malfunction while 17% of the sewage systems in the 171 dwelling units were classified with “confirmed” malfunctions. According to Act 537 pollution of Pennsylvania waterways must stop. Conewago Township had a problem to solve. The first step was to apply for funding to PENNVEST (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority) for financial aid. At this time PENNVEST estimated the cost to put in a sewage system to be over \$7 million dollars. Second step Rep. John Payne was able to help this project fit into a higher priority within PENNVEST for funding. Third step Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc. (HRG) our consultants had extensive experience and gave the Township exceptional efforts in successfully securing the financing thru Pennvest and capital contributions to achieve what was initially determined to be impossible. These efforts and others allowed CMA (Conewago Municipal Authority) to work out an agreement with DTMA (Derry Township Municipal Authority) which would permit Conewago Twp. access to Derry Township Sewer Facilities. Although the cost to the Township and its' citizens was not clear, what choice did the Township have? Other alternatives such as a holding tank and regular pumping would be extremely costly. DTMA stated, though, that the cost would be greater for Conewago Township residents than Derry Township residents because of the length of the run and the minimal hookups. DTMA was willing to do this, but stated that it would be of great cost to Conewago Township residents. The CMA board, with the support of the Township Supervisors wouldn't give up. The goal was to make sewer hookup as cost efficient for the citizens in Conewago Township as the citizens in Derry Township. As of October 2005 many citizens still felt this was impossible and clearly stated their feelings.



**The Board of Supervisors working for the Conewago citizens**

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Chairman Greg Hill and John Rochat, despite negative feedback, took the lead in this uphill battle. There was still several problems to solve. Supervisor John Rochat worked to make the right contacts and complete the required paperwork in time to go out for bids. In May, 2006 the bids came in and to everyone's surprise one of the bids was about one million dollars lower than the rest. This was due to the slow downturn in construction and other economical factors at this "snap shot" in time. This bidder had done work in this area for years with a decent track record. We accepted this bid and gave it to PENNVEST. Because the bid was lower than expected PENNVEST had to review the amount they were going to loan/grant us, but we had to sign the contract with the bidder in 30 days or the bidder could back out of the deal. On the 29<sup>th</sup> day we got the answer that PENNVEST would loan at 1% interest/grant a total of \$5,210,138.00. Best of all, the grant part \$618,782 of the loan didn't change. This allowed us to get even closer to the dream of hooking up and billing the same as DTMA. But the dream still wasn't a reality yet. Then things changed again. The Milton Hershey School Trust decided to buy some of the sewage capacity at a \$704,000 investment. Now the dream was even more reachable. Yes, other issues came up but we kept working and solving them one at a time, keeping our goal in focus.

Finally the goal was met. Now Conewago Township residents that have to hookup (within 150 feet from home to sewage line Ord.# 2006-4) will pay connection fees that would be \$1500 below what DTMA charges for sewage hook up in Derry Township, plus the rates per month would be the same as Derry Township residents. Also, if you need to use a grinder pump, the first one is free to the Conewago Township resident. (DTMA will refund the cost up to \$4,400).

The Township finished this project on time and on budget. Hookups are officially starting at the end of May, 2008 with a 60 day hookup period (July 30 officially). Voluntary connection can start anytime as of this newsletter date. If you need a loan for your hookups DTMA will work with you to try to accomplish this on a payment plan.

Many said it couldn't be done. On the April 14th Board of Supervisors meeting Rep. John Payne summed it up this way, "My hat is off to this board for the forethought in getting this project done now. If you were to try to do it today it would be almost unachievable due to many more cities and townships trying to get funding from PENNVEST but can't get the help they need. Unfortunately the cost will be passed on to their citizens. These citizens will have to pay out of their own pockets more now because of the new federal mandate to the states to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Cities and townships are required to clean up their pollution issues now so the state is looking everywhere for funding." An example of this is to look at Shrewsbury where it is being estimated that residents hookup fees could run as high as \$40,000 per home.

They said, "It couldn't be done." Fortunately we wouldn't accept the statement without trying first. The satisfaction is through perseverance, hard work and an optimistic outlook, a goal and dream was met for the citizens of Conewago.

Municipal Sewage Authority Members, Chairman Gregory Hill, Vice-Chairman John Rochat, Galen Shelly Secretary, Norm Miller, Ralph Luttrell, Solicitor Peter Henninger

**Note for Home owners in Conewago Township: If your septic system is three years old you are due to pump this year. If you already pumped and your septic system is six years old you are due to Inspect and Pump this year. All septic systems are required to be pumped every three years and recorded in the Township Office. Only register Pumpers and Inspectors authorized by Conewago Township will be recognized to meet the Ordinance requirements. ( If you don't have a list call Township)**

**Note for Phase 2 sewage area: You will be required to get a Permit from DTMA. After you are hooked up to DTMA you are required to pump your terminated septic system in some cases the morning of hookup (to allow for the connection to take place) or as soon as possible after hookup, but in no case more than 14 days. Conewago Township will need a copy of the last pumping report after hookup with DTMA, a statement of material used in filling your old septic system and date this was accomplished, and a completed copy of the DTMA sewage permit showing that you have hooked up to the DTMA sewage system. The pumping report and filling report must be turned into the Township Office no later than 30 days after DTMA hookup.**

## May Celebration ? Did You Know?

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing, however. In April of 1963, President John F. Kennedy's meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens served as a prelude to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month". Thanks to President Jimmy Carter's 1980 designation, what was once called Senior Citizens Month is now called "Older Americans Month", and has become a tradition.

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs and other such activities.

*we only have the  
roots of our past  
to nourish us and  
lay the foundation  
for our future.*

## From the Roads

### What does a road crew do during the winter when they are not salting or plowing out roads?

This question comes up many times to the displeasure of the road crew who usually will say come follow us and find out. Over this past winter our crew, during bad weather, worked inside the shop going over all the equipment the Township owns. They completed maintenance schedules on all equipment, and this year painted the 1979 Road Grader. They removed all of the loose paint and rusty areas, primed, and applied several coats of paint. The plow that is used on the grader needed major repair and replacement of parts so it could be used. Painting this was included. One of the truck plows also needed major work and, too, was painted. The building built in 1974 only had 1/2 inch of insulation. The road crew, with Board approval, started to install insulation. Now there is R-19 on two sides. When time permits the crew will continue this work into next winter when all the shop will be at least a R-19 rating. The road crew cleared all the gutters and storm drains each time it rained. The two man road crew also salted and cindered all the State and Township Roads sixteen times plus an additional seven times for part of the Township Roads. They were involved in closing roads during flooding, and clearing twelve trees that fell on Township roads during the ice storm removing numerous branches and limbs off township roads. This is only a partial list. This work has been accomplished since leaf removal was finished in December until now when the road crew is back out on the roads this spring. This spring and summer will be full with work on the Gates Road widening project, Laurel Drive milling and resurfacing project, numerous grading of road right-of-ways to improve drainage of our Township roads, and regular cleaning of culverts and filling in depressed areas in the roads and sealing cracks in the road. I can't forget mowing along Township right-of-ways and weed control around signs, bridges and guide rails. If you see our road crew out on the roads please slow down and follow directions, They are just trying to improve the roads for your safety and comfort. If you are a citizen of Conewago Township and have a concern or want additional information on roads please call the Road Master at the Township Office Tuesday-Thursday.



**Township Notes:** **Dog Leash Law in Pennsylvania-** In Pennsylvania dogs must be confined within their owner's property; firmly secured on the premises so they cannot stray; or reasonably controlled by a person. Please be considerate of your neighbors yard as you walk your dog. Cleaning up after your dog will go a long way in being a good neighbor.

**Roads Major Problem** "Water above, below and alongside our roadway – expanding and contracting as it freezes and thaws with the changes in temperature – wreak havoc with our roads," said Scott Christie, PennDOT's acting district executive for south central Pennsylvania.

## **CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP**

**3279 Old Hershey Road**

**Elizabethtown, Pa 17022**

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**John D. Rochat—Chairman**

**Jay M. Brandt-Vice Chairman**

**Galen Shelly**

Phone: 717-534-8556

Fax: 717-533-6643

E-mail: [BOS.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net](mailto:BOS.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net)



If you would like to receive updates of Township News we will be glad to put you on a Township wide E-mail system. Please send your e-mail address to:

[BOS.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net](mailto:BOS.conewagotwpdauphin@comcast.net)

We do not review this e-mail location on a daily basis so if you need a reply to township business it is still best to call the office.

Did you Know the Conewago Township Ordinances are on the Internet? You can access them by going to: [www.e-codes.generalcode.com/globalsearch.asp](http://www.e-codes.generalcode.com/globalsearch.asp) then scroll down selecting Conewago Twp. This is the one just above Derry twp.

### **Gypsy Moth Suppression Project**

Please be advised that Dauphin County is cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Forestry in conducting a gypsy moth spraying program which will include, to name a few, Conewago, Derry, and Londonderry Townships. The insecticide being used on residential properties is *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a biological insecticide which has no known adverse human health or environmental impacts. The insecticide will be applied by helicopter flying 50 feet above the tree line. To avoid possible eye irritation persons should not look up as the spray cloud is descending. If you need additional information on the insecticides being used, the timing of the spraying in your area or any other questions please call Scott Stitzer, Area Forest Pest Management Specialist, Phone: 570-387-4273.

### **Did you know?**

- According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Pennsylvania Tobacco Facts 2007 report, one in four Pennsylvania high school students used tobacco and cigars.
- Maintain Groundwater Recharge Over 80% of the annual precipitation infiltrates into the soil mantle in Pennsylvania's watersheds under natural conditions. In round numbers, an estimated annual water balance is: Surface water runoff, 20%; evapotranspiration 45%; ground-water recharge, 35%.

### **Park and Recreation**

The Park Board along with the Board of Supervisors are working to acquire 28 acres of centralized land in the Township for future recreation and community park for its' citizens. We are in the process of applying for a matching grant application to PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) through their Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The application is being filled out by Lauren B. Zumbrun of Rettew Ass, consultant on the Recreation Board. In the April 9th meeting the Board of Supervisors endorsed this statement, "We believe the availability and accessibility of open space and recreational areas are important to a community's quality of life. To that end, we are excited about this current opportunity to considerably increase our park land..." The application was hand carried by Representative John Payne to the Dept of Natural Resources on April 25th.

Danny Fisher Memorial Field will have some updates in the near future through a grant that was received for putting in new backstops and benches as well as a picnic area next to the ball field.

Park and Recreation Board members are:

Chairman Jason Parmer, Vice-Chair Sherry Weaver, Daniel Tredinnick, Laurie Rochat, Jane Janeczek