

East Marlborough

TOWNSHIP

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Community Warehouse Project
of CHESTER COUNTY

Community Warehouse Project of Chester County

Do you have gently used furniture and/or housewares you no longer need or use? Do you want to avoid throwing these things in the trash? Community Warehouse Project might be the place for you. We collect gently used furniture items and housewares at our warehouse in West Chester. Working with other local agencies who identify clients in need, we help families and veterans affected by homelessness, domestic violence, and other crises.

We believe our mission is to turn empty houses into homes of hope. We give furniture and housewares to an average of 6 to 10 Chester County households each week. We need more help than ever before, and you can help by simply donating a piece of furniture.

What our families need most right now:

- ✓ Dressers
- ✓ Kitchen tables & chairs
- ✓ Sofas
- ✓ Coffee Tables & End Tables
- ✓ Lamps
- ✓ Microwaves
- ✓ Mattresses & Box Springs with No Stains (especially twins & queens)
- ✓ Sheets & Blankets

Please go to our web site for details: www.communitywarehouseproject.com; call: (484) 473-4360 or email gbrion@communitywarehouseproject.com. Thank you for your support of our Chester County families, individuals, and veterans!

Visit us at eastmarlborough.org

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East Marlborough Township would like to thank the businesses and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

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Our newsletter is supported by local businesses like yours that recognize the value of reaching households in the Township.

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLEAN ENERGY

By Robert 'Bobby' B. McKinstry, Jr., Esq., Township Board of Supervisors, Chairperson

The Township was fortunate to be able to acquire two large properties that became available adjacent to its existing properties. First, the Township has agreed to purchase the five-acre property adjacent to its existing office building. Without this acquisition, the Township would have faced difficulties in making necessary expansions to its facilities to meet existing and future needs, due to limitations on impervious surface. The acquisition also assures that the parcel will not be used for a townhouse development. (The property had been under an agreement of sale for such a development.) Second, the Township has acquired a farm that became available next to its existing sewage spray fields, thereby assuring that spray irrigation can continue if its existing fields are exhausted or otherwise cannot satisfy the demand for treatment.

These acquisitions also will make it possible to expand the Township's use of clean energy and reduce its generation of greenhouse gases, using financing tools that were made available by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The IRA made the 30% tax credit for solar, ground source geothermal, and energy efficient heat pumps available to entities, like the Township, which do not pay income taxes. The IRA does so by allowing them to obtain a direct payment in lieu of the tax credit. Although there was a mechanism for the Township to benefit from the tax credit for solar installation before

the IRA, there were limits to how much solar could be installed using that mechanism and the Township could not realize the full economic benefit of the tax credit. Before the IRA, there was no mechanism whereby the Township could benefit from installation of ground source geothermal or energy efficient heat pumps.

Supervisor Eric Matuszak and EAC member Andy Jenkins are working on a draft of a Township clean energy plan for consideration by the EAC and eventually the Board of Supervisors. They have already identified the sewage treatment system as the largest generator of greenhouse gas emissions. Ground source geothermal coupled with solar panels could be accommodated on the site, thereby reducing, or eliminating use of natural gas and saving our ratepayers money. With the acquisition of the new property adjacent to the Township offices, the Township could increase its solar generation, replace its use of natural gas with ground source geothermal, and save taxpayers money by realizing a greater return on the Township's funds than it would otherwise achieve.

It is important to begin working now with Township staff and our engineers to develop plans to determine how we can best take advantage of these opportunities before they sunset and develop proposals for consideration by the public and the Board of Supervisors. Keep tuned!



The Board of Supervisors may consider enacting regulations to reduce the use of single-use, plastic carryout bags and single-use, plastic straws by commercial establishments within East Marlborough Township. By possibly passing such regulations, the Board of Supervisors desires to conserve resources, reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, waste, litter, water pollution, and to protect the public health and welfare, including wildlife, all of which increases the quality of life for the Township's residents and visitors.

To review the proposed regulations, please scan the QR Code, visit the township's website at: <https://www.eastmarlborough.org/whats-going-on-in-my-township/>, or visit the Township Municipal Building.

VOTE 2023



GENERAL ELECTION PERIOD:

Precincts

- ✓ Voter registration deadline: October 23 Patton Middle School, 760 Unionville RD, Kennett Square, PA 19348 (East & West)
- ✓ Mail-in ballot request deadline: October 31 Kennett Square Baptist Church, 408 Bayard RD, Kennett Square, PA 19348 (South)
- ✓ GENERAL ELECTION: November 7

TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE



All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Township Building.

If a member of the public has a disability and wishes to attend/participate in any of the below public meetings, is encouraged to contact the Township Administration at 610-444-0725 to discuss how East Marlborough Township may best accommodate his or her needs. Meeting exceptions, including rescheduling and/or cancellation are duly advertised.

- **Board of Supervisors** 1st Monday each month (7:00 p.m.) with the except of July and September (2nd Monday)
- **Planning Commission** Tuesday preceding the Board of Supervisors meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- **Environmental Advisory Council** 3rd Wednesday each month (8:00 a.m.)
- **Historical Commission** 2nd Monday each month (7:00 p.m.)
- **Zoning Hearing Board** As needed (7:00 p.m.)
- **Historic Architecture Review Board** As needed (5:30 p.m.)



2023 PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

The Public Works Department has 6 employees under the direction of the Public Works Director. We maintain over 60 miles of Township roads, including Rt. 82 within the township boundaries. We also conduct snow and ice control operations on an additional 10 miles of State-owned roads, in addition to the 60 miles of township owned roads.

The sanitary sewer system maintenance includes daily operations of the wastewater treatment plant and spray irrigation fields, 11 pump stations, 600 grinder pump stations, and many miles of sewer pipes. To report a road or sewer emergency, please call 610-444-1594 to speak with the on-call public works employee. Please only use this number for emergencies that require immediate attention. All other calls should be directed to the office, 610-444-0725.

Don't flush "Flushable Wipes" down the drain! These items are not biodegradable, and they clog the pipes and pumps, possibly leading to sewers backing up into your house.

Road work scheduled for 2023 consists of paving the La Reserve development. We will be applying a chip seal first to seal the cracks, followed by the new paving. Newhall Road and Marlborough Spring Road will be chip sealed, followed by a fog seal.

The bridge on North Mill Road damaged by a tropical storm several years ago, will be replaced this summer by the Public Works crew. We received a \$192,000.00 grant from the Chester County Conservation District to help cover the expense.

The structurally deficient bridge that carries East Locust Lane over the Red Clay Creek is being replaced with an early summer completion date. The 89-year-old bridge replacement project was made possible by a \$816,000.00 grant received with cooperation by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

REMEMBER THE "FLUSHABLE FOUR!"

If your property has a grinder pump, only four kinds of materials are permitted to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system...

1. Human waste & toilet paper
2. Food waste processed through a garbage disposal unit (but not grease)
3. Water from sinks, tubs & dishwashers
4. Water from washing machines

All other materials can damage your grinder pump. This includes paint, adult wipes, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products.

PAPER IS A LOVABLE RECYCLABLE

By Patti Lynn CRP, Recycling Resources Manager, Chester County Solid Waste Authority

When you talk about recycling, it's likely that plastic is the material on everyone's minds. "Plastic is confusing!" (Yes, it is!) "Do we really need it?" (Yes and no)

But paper? Not so much. Why not? Because paper is one of the easiest materials to recycle, and it has a long history of recyclability in the US (1600's by many accounts). Recycling one ton of paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of our precious landfill space!

Paper can be recycled 5-7 times. The longer the paper's fibers, the more times it can be recycled into a new product before it loses its integrity. Today's copy paper can be next week's newspaper, then next month's paper towels.

Using recovered paper in mills is more economical than using virgin fiber. The process does not require extreme heat for melting, as it does for plastic, glass, and metals. Energy costs are a concern, however most of the mills in our eastern region have very efficient systems. Philadelphia's Newman Mill, for example, has a closed loop system that co-generates, producing its own steam and electricity. Using 100% recycled feedstock, Newman Paper manufactures chip board used in the making of packaging, gameboards, puzzles, candy boxes, book covers and many other everyday products.

About 80% of US paper mills depend on used paper to manufacture some or all their products. Overall, the fiber mill industry is healthy, there is plenty of recyclable fiber feedstock available and trucking and labor are finally finding some stabilization.

WHAT PAPER IS ACCEPTABLE IN RECYCLING BINS? Clean loads are essential! Unsoiled junk mail, magazines, newspaper, office paper, flattened cereal boxes/paperboard and corrugated, and CLEAN pizza boxes (NO FOOD OR GREASE!).

Not all paper collected for recycling in Chester County ends up at the same mill. Each has their own unique limits on what specific fibers they need and contamination levels. Always check with your municipality or private recycling hauler to know what is acceptable.

Let's be Trash Smart. Appreciate your paper when you use it and love it enough to easily recycle it!



What is a fund? By definition, a fund is a set of interrelated accounts which record assets and liabilities related to a specific Township purpose. Funds allow for the monitoring of and accounting for revenues dedicated to a specific purpose and the sums of money that are available, budgeted and expended for a specific purpose.

What types of funds does East Marlborough Township use?

Over the years, the Township has established several types of funds that include operational funds, reserve funds, capital funds and an enterprise fund.

Operational funds distinguish revenue sources and expenditures for a specific operational purpose. Currently, the only true “operational” fund is the **General Fund**. The Township’s General Fund is the largest and most complex operating fund as it provides for the day-to-day services that the taxpayers expect as carried out by the 3 departments: Administration, Police, and Public Works.

The Township’s **Liquid Fuels Fund** (established per the requirements of the Commonwealth of PA) may also be used for operational and capital costs.

The Township has an **Operating Reserve Fund** to support the General Fund should the Township experience revenue shortfalls or unexpected expenditures.

The Township has a **Capital Reserve Fund** (“*Capital Improvement/Building Fund*”) that is designated exclusively for the purchasing of capital assets and/or for infrastructure expenditures. This Capital Reserve Fund is used for large capital items and projects. The purposes for which capital reserve funds can be used are subject to restrictions imposed by state law and/or Township ordinance.

In 2022, the Township implemented its **Capital Improvement Plan** to better plan for and allocate funds to projects that are valued over \$10,000.00 and have a useful lifespan of 5-years or based on an industry standard. On June 6, 2022, the Board adopted the Township’s Capitalization Policy to memorialize a written, observable policy, which effectively: (i) identifies and defines capital purchases and projects; (ii) establishes asset and project life cycles; and (iii) identifies associated performance standards.

The Township has one enterprise fund, the **Sewer Fund**, that provides for the operation and maintenance of our public sanitary sewer system, paid for by users through rates and fees. An enterprise fund accounts for operations that are financed and operated in a manner like a private business. The full costs of providing the service are financed primarily through charges and fees versus a tax subsidy, thus removing these expenses from the Township General Fund and the general tax rate.

The Township has also created a variety of specialized capital and operational type funds to monitor revenue and expenses for designated public services: **Parks, Open Space, Library, and Fire & Emergency Services**. Furthermore, the Township established a fund to capture reimbursable expenses, the **Rebill Fund**, and a fund for **American Rescue Plan Act** deposits and expenditures.

As of the second and third quarters of 2022, all the funds were linked to bank accounts that include direct (electronic) deposits of tax revenue and user fees where appropriate. Every fund has its own bank account, checks, and ‘Company’ within QuickBooks to accurately track revenues and expenditures.

To further ensure for detailed and accurate fund accounting, at the October 3, 2002 meeting the Board of Supervisors resolved to memorialize a written, observable policy, which sought to ensure the Township maintains adequate fund balance and reserves to effectively: (i) Maintain an excellent bond rating; (ii) Provide sufficient cash flow for daily financial needs; (iii) Offset significant economic downturns or revenue shortfalls; (iv) Provide funds for unforeseen expenditures related to emergencies; and (v) Set minimum reserve standards.

RECEIVE A FREE UV WATER TREATMENT DEVICE FOR YOUR WELL

Public Health Researchers at Temple University are looking for families who drink water from a private well for a paid study. They are interested in keeping children safe from illnesses that can be spread by drinking water from private wells. Families will receive a free whole-home UV water treatment system (value of device + installation = \$1,000). Families can participate from home. To be part of this National Institutes of Health study, families must have a child three years old or younger and live in select PA counties, including Chester County.

For more information, visit their website at www.wettrial.org, call them at (215) 204-5124, or email them at wettrial@temple.edu.



EAST MARLBOROUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historic Commission identifies, researches, and safeguards the Township's designated historic buildings and cultural sites per applicable PA and US statutes. Specific responsibilities are to advise property owners and the Township's Board of Supervisors on the appropriateness of proposed exterior renovations, additions, new construction, and demolition involving an historic building or cultural artifact. All properties within East Marlborough Township with designated historical buildings and/or cultural artifacts (except those within the Unionville Village Historic District which are the separate responsibility of the Unionville HARB) are subject to Historical Commission's review. Property owners considering renovations, additions, etc. may initiate contact/dialog with the Historical Commission by contacting the East Marlborough Township Office (610-444-0725). The Historical Commission's meeting schedule is available on the East Marlborough Township website. Additional meetings with property owners regarding specific proposals can be scheduled, as needed.

The Historical Commission presents historic buildings and cultural artifacts within the Township, and related subjects of historical interest in this and future EMT Newsletters and on its website, eastmarlboroughhistorical.org. Property owners willing to have their buildings/artifacts featured in future EMT Newsletters should contact the Historical Commission through the East Marlborough Township Office.

Safehouse For A Traitor



To get the real story of an old house around here, a jewel-like source is Facebook Group Page: "Rediscovering Rural Unionville-Chadds Ford". In it we found an article authored by Phil Maggitti about the now 'lost' log cabin that was according to longtime local resident Martha Walls-Brown the home of Sandy Flash's mother. So, who was Sandy Flash and why was this 'safehouse' historic?

From Maggitti we learn that a man named James Fitzpatrick a.k.a. "Sandy Flash" was a notorious "handsome, bold, courtly, and courageous highwayman" (e.g., thief). He preferred to be called Captain Fitz because of the title he earned working for the British as a guide during the Battle of the Brandywine. Captain Fitz knew "the unprotected fords above the Colonials' right wing" that allowed the British troops under General Howe to reach unexpected strategic positions on the battlefield.

After the war Fitzpatrick stayed local but could not re-enter civilian life as the local sentiment was now decidedly anti-British. No one would support a traitor, nor would they offer him shelter, except for his mother, and if Fitzpatrick was caught, he would be doomed. The story of Fitzpatrick's final criminal escapade ended on September 15, 1778, when he was ingeniously caught and sentenced to hang.

Be sure to read Maggitti's article to learn the rest of the story at eastmarlboroughhistorical.org. Also, Fitzpatrick was memorialized as the colonial anti-hero of Bayard Taylor's still-readable romance, 'The Story of Kennett' (1869).

We have a township steeped in history. The log cabin 'safe house' was a tenant dwelling connected to what is today the Glenelg Farm on Newhall Road. It was located to the north-west of the Marlborough Friends Meeting house. The photograph shows how it appeared in 1952.

STATE VS. TOWNSHIP VS. PRIVATE ROADS

STATE Roads in East Marlborough Township include:

1. East & West Street Road (Rt. 926)
2. Unionville-Wawaset Road (Rt. 842E)
3. Upland Road (Rt. 842W)
4. Lenape Road (Rt. 52)
5. Baltimore Pike (Rt. 1)

To report an issue with **STATE Roads** (please see list above), including potholes and other road problems, please contact the PennDOT maintenance hotline at: 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623) or use this link to access PennDOT's concern form.

Reporting potholes and other road problems on **TOWNSHIP Roads** (any road not included in the list of State roads above), please call the Public Works Department at 610-444-1375 or

send an e-mail to jsimpson@eastmarlborough.org.

Reporting potholes and other road problems on **PRIVATE Roads** within HOA developments, please contact your property management company and/or your elected Homeowners Association Board.

To report a sick or dead deer, including removal:

- Contact PennDOT at (484) 340-3200 for State roads only: Routes 926 (W. Street Rd.), 842 (Unionville-Wawaset Rd.), and 52 (Lenape Rd.), plus Pocopson, Lenape-Unionville, Wawaset, Red Lion and Northbrook Roads.
- Contact the PA Game Commission at (610) 926-3136 or (610) 926-1966 for Township roads only (i.e., any other road in the Township not identified above as a state road).



UNIONVILLE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

The Unionville HARB safeguards the historic character and external appearance of the Unionville Village Historic District per its designation under applicable PA and US statutes. The HARB's responsibilities are to advise the district's property owners and the Township's Board of Supervisors as to the appropriateness of any proposed external changes to structures including exterior renovations, additions, new construction, demolitions, signage, etc. The Unionville HARB executes its responsibilities by advising the Township Board of Supervisors regarding the advisability of issuing Certificates of Appropriateness. All properties designated within the district are subject to Unionville HARB review.

Property owners may initiate contact/dialog with the Unionville HARB regarding their proposed external changes to structures by contacting the East Marlborough Township Office (610-444-0725). The Unionville HARB pledges prompt evaluations and recommendations following complete submissions.

The Unionville HARB is presenting individual historic structures located within the district in this and future newsletters. Property owners willing to have their buildings featured in future Newsletters should contact the Unionville HARB through the East Marlborough Township Office.

Odd Fellows Hall, 1726 West Doe Run Road

The large red brick building adjacent to the Unionville Community Park; what is its story? In the 1940's residents of Unionville knew the Hall as a community building used by various organizations; however, the Hall was originally built as the Eastern Star Lodge, Unionville and dedicated by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1851. In the time before the social services, we have today, communities banded together to take care of their own. The Odd Fellows originated in England during the 18th century and expanded to the United States beginning in Baltimore Maryland on April 26, 1819, as an altruistic fraternity with the Motto: "Friendship, Love, Truth". The wives of the members had their own organization called The Daughters of Rebekah. Local members brought to the Hall the problems and difficulties of Unionville's widows, orphans, the sick, and the poor. On the top floor of the Hall there were four platforms highlighted with a curtained valence; members would come to a particular platform (representing North, South, East or West) and present the needs of various community members. The Hall was remodeled, enlarged, and rededicated by the Odd Fellows on December 5, 1894. The Lodge Rooms were located on the top floor, the middle floor functioned as a hall or banquet room with a stage, and in the basement a complete kitchen in the basement and mechanical dumb waiters to transport food.



Over time other community events took place in the Hall including the Lyceum Club (lectures, theater, concerts, and community events, some of the original theatrical sets still survive), the East Lynn Grange (a society of farmers), and family repatriation dinners after the Civil War. In the 20th century the Hall hosted a restaurant serving soft ice cream and hamburgers for 35 cents, an Army Recruiting office, the local post office, and a grocery store. In 1982 the Unionville community put on a play in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Chester County with residents portraying Native Americans and William Penn; there was much hilarity as nobody remembered their lines; the event harkened back to when communities came together to share.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Registration is REQUIRED PRIOR TO DROP-OFF

NO TV's, ELECTRONICS, LATEX PAINT OR FREON APPLIANCES WILL BE ACCEPTED

To register for one of the below collect dates, please visit www.chestercountyswa.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

Coatesville Learning Center
1635 East Lincoln Highway,
Coatesville, PA 19320

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

Oxford School District Administrative Building
125 Bell Tower Lane
Oxford, PA 19363

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Government Services Center
601 Westtown Road
West Chester, PA 19382



WHAT'S NEW IN FIRE AND EMS?



Longwood Fire Company, Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company, and Kennett Fire Company have been busy training and responding to emergency incidents in East Marlborough Township and the surrounding area. Through regional collaboration, the companies are working toward standardized operations and consistent staffing levels to ensure that our communities are receiving the very best service possible while maintaining their own organizational identities. From January to March, Longwood Fire Company has responded to 200 EMS calls and 50 Fire calls within East Marlborough Township alone. Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company responded to 18 calls for Fire/Rescue service in East Marlborough Township. Po-Mar-Lin has a completely 100% volunteer workforce, while Longwood Fire Company is a combination fire department that uses both career and volunteer members for response.

Funding Crisis—A Call for Action

Our organizations have seen a dramatic decrease in volunteers, and it continues to get worse. Due to family obligations, dual income households, and the training required to maintain certifications, most people simply do not have the time to commit. One of the predominate priorities in Governor Shapiro's agenda is to build safer communities. The fact is that fire and EMS systems within the Commonwealth are truly within crisis and while many local government officials agree that there is a problem, there is no clear solution. This crisis has finally gained traction at the state and local levels—but change is a slow process.

The problem is multifaceted, but it boils down to a rapidly declining volunteer base, rising costs for capital and equipment, increased call volumes, and a lack of consistent, adequate revenue. For example, while donations are appreciated and critical to the organization, they have remained static over the years while costs of labor and equipment continue to increase. This gap in large part has been supplemented by municipal contributions and reserve spending out of the companies.

What is the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission?

The Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission is a quasi-governmental body established through an inter-municipal agreement between the Borough of Kennett Square and the Townships of East Marlborough, Kennett, Newlin, Pennsbury and Pocopson. It works together to work collaboratively and pool resources (funding) together in a way that makes sense for the municipalities as well as the service providers. East Marlborough Township's representative Cuyler Walker has been a leader in this organization since its inception and continues to be an effective communicator and advocate for both the municipality he represents and the service providers.

Our community is extremely fortunate to have elected and appointed officials from East Marlborough Township that support first responder organizations. These officials dedicate a great deal of time into understanding the industry and working collaboratively with their first responders to solve these problems together in the safest, most effective ways for the community and the first responders who risk their lives every day to serve and protect the region.

We thank you for your continued support and encourage anyone who is interested in learning more to reach out to either Longwood Fire Company or Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company at gratliff@longwoodfireco.com or info@pomarlinfc.org.





Conserving the Brilliant Bluebird

At Longwood Gardens, we're committed to conserving the brilliant Eastern bluebird, one of the most beloved songbirds in eastern North America. Through our focused program that's been in place since the 1970s, we work to help reverse the regional decline of this iconic species.

With the expansion of our Meadow Garden, the development and implementation of 200 bluebird houses on our property, and our careful and meticulous monitoring and data gathering, bluebird populations at Longwood have steadily grown—we're seeing hundreds of young bluebirds hatch in our nest boxes every year. Now part of an international citizen science program from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Project NestWatch, our bluebird box data also contributes to bluebird conservation at large by adding to scientific knowledge of how populations change over time.

Learn more about our conservation efforts and our bluebird program at longwoodgardens.org/bluebird.



LONGWOOD
GARDENS

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Pennsylvania.

LICENSE YOUR DOG IN PA

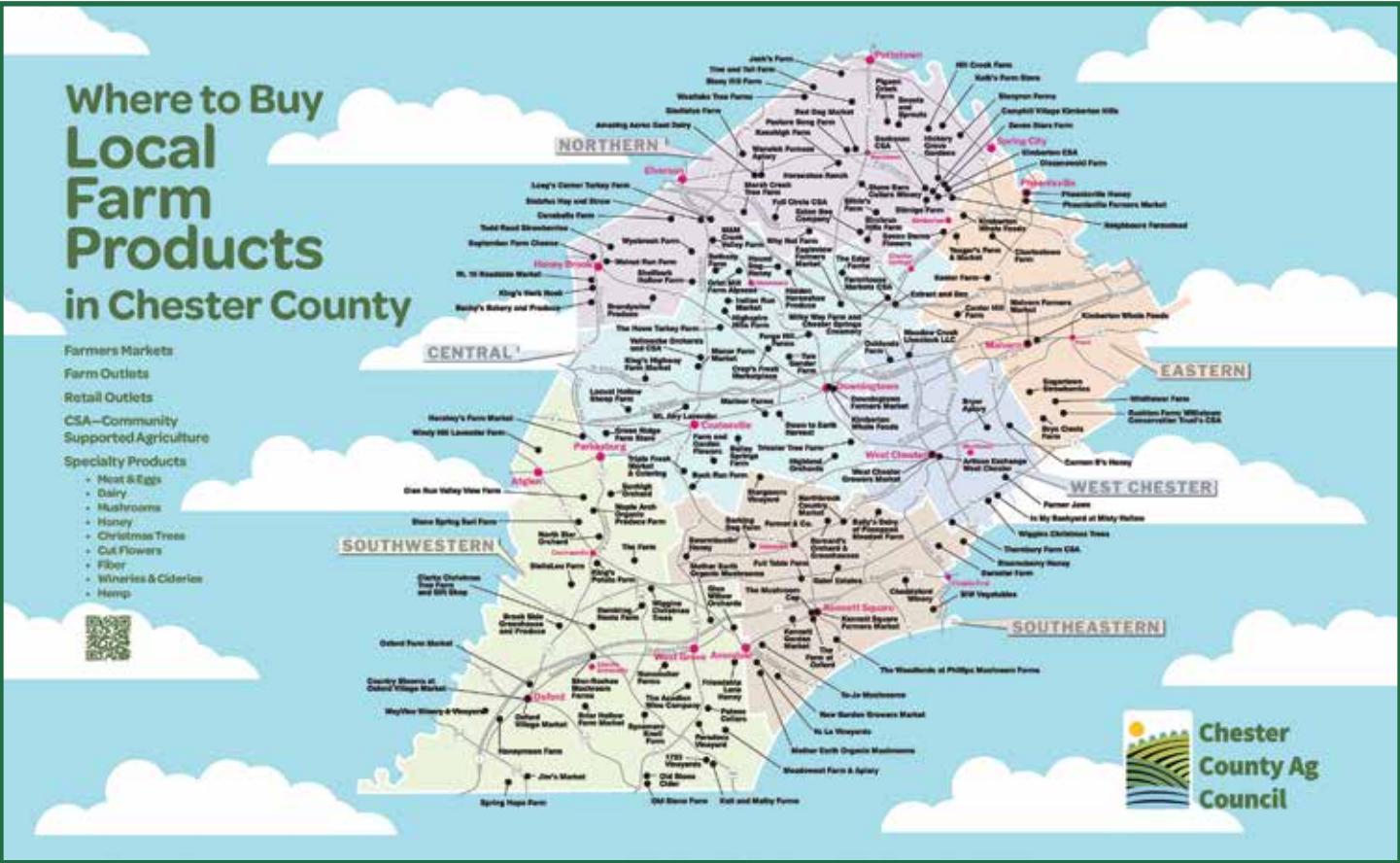
All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.

An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

The small license fee helps the millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. Dog licenses are available from your local county treasurer and other licensing agents.

Reasons for dog licensing:

- **It's the law.** All dogs three months and older must have a current license.
- **If your dog gets lost, a license is the best way to get him back.** A license helps animal control and shelters identify your dog and get him back home safely.
- **The cost of a license is less than the penalty for being caught without one.** Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.
- **License fees support animal control.** The annual fee you pay to license your dog helps keep shelters running and supports the work of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations.



DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO REPORT?

Township staff handle a wide variety of local municipal compliance topics. Specific types of compliance issues will be forwarded to the appropriate township official(s) (i.e., Building and Zoning Official, Public Works Director, and Police Chief, etc.) for compliance management, but coordination of the complaint and resolution will be through the Township Manager. Only forms that are accurate and complete, including the Complaint Information will be accepted. Forms may be submitted in-person during business hours, dropped through the mail-slot in the double-front doors of the Municipal Building, or submitted via email: nlovekin@eastmarlborough.org.

Township Compliance Process

1. Receive complaint.
2. Investigate to determine if a violation exists.
3. If a violation does exist, the property owner or violator will be contacted and informed of the violation, what actions are needed to remedy the situation, and given a specific compliance deadline date.
4. On the compliance deadline date, the responsible township official will verify that compliance has been attained. If this is found to be the case, the file will be closed.
5. If, upon re-inspection, the violation still exists, the property owner or violator will be contacted and again requested to comply. The second notice will include a date in which a citation may be issued if the problem has not been resolved.
6. After the citation deadline is reached, a site visit is made to determine if the matter has been corrected. If the violation still exists, a citation may be issued, and the case information prepared for District Court.

Due to the large volume of complaints processed, it is difficult to maintain up-to-date status reports to complainants. Please feel free to check in with the Township Administration if you would like to find out the status of a complaint by calling 610-444-0725.

Different types of complaints and violations have somewhat different timeframes for compliance based on several factors including public safety and ease of corrective activities required. The intent of the compliance process is to be as fair as possible to all parties involved and to ensure that the livability of our township is maintained through communication, education, and mutual respect.

Township Ordinances are available for reference on the township website at www.eastmarlborough.org. It is encouraged that citizens refer to the appropriate Township Ordinance(s) to provide a basis for a complaint, and if possible, communicate directly with the responsible party to the complaint in efforts of resolving the matter privately. The Township does not handle private property disputes as there are existing regulations for rectifying these matters.

For questions regarding Code and Zoning Compliance in Township, please contact Township Administration at 610-444-0725. To access a fillable Complaint Form, please visit: <https://www.eastmarlborough.org/forms>.



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The advertisement features a background image of a worker in a yellow hard hat and blue overalls kneeling on a dark shingled roof, using a hammer. The overall design is professional with a blue and white color scheme.

CONSTRUCTION ZONES, AGGRESSIVE DRIVING, ROAD RAGE

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn Dot) has begun the US Rt 1 (East Baltimore Pike) widening project between the end of the Rt 1 bypass and the Longwood Gardens overpass. This is a multi-year project consisting of several phases that consist of moving utilities upgrading traffic signals and installation of new signs, addition of a sidewalk, and ultimately widening the roadway to three straights through travel lanes in each direction.

There is no doubt that motorists and residents will be impacted by the effects of these growing pains including delays, increased traffic volume on local roads by motorists trying to avoid traffic stoppages. The inconveniences will lead to drivers becoming impatient and upset that their daily routine has become disrupted. Occasionally people become irritated, angry, and thereby lash out with harsh words, gestures, and actions due to pure frustration. If one does not realize what is transpiring and loses self-control, these moments can escalate to the point where police intervention must occur to protect a frightened unsuspecting motorist from potential harm and to restore order.

When you encounter work zones, PennDOT, and AAA Mid-Atlantic encourage travelers to keep the following traffic safety tips in mind:

- Slow down.
- Drive the posted work-zone speed limit.
- Avoid distractions and give your full attention to the road.
- Stay alert and pay close attention to signs and flaggers.
- Turn on your headlights if signs instruct you to do so.
- Maintain a safe distance around vehicles. Don't tailgate.
- Use four-way flashers when stopped or traveling slowly.
- Traffic patterns can change rapidly.
- When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible.
- If driving a large truck or bus, remember you have limited maneuverability, so proceed with caution; and
- Always buckle up.

To learn more about work zone safety and other PennDOT safety initiatives, visit PennDOT.gov/Safety.

The terms road rage and aggressive driving are often used interchangeably, but there is an important distinction between the two. Aggressive driving is often used as a label for unsafe driving behaviors, like speeding or tailgating, that could compromise people's safety and lead to a traffic violation. Road rage incidents include driving behavior that can escalate to yelling, angry gestures or violent acts. Outside of raised voices and rude gestures, road rage is a criminal offense.

Aggressive driving and road rage warning signs:

No two drivers are the same, so the way they express their frustration might be different. Here are some signs a driver might be upset,

- Tailgating
- Speeding
- Cutting other drivers off
- Running red lights or stop signs.
- Swerving in and out of heavy traffic
- Not using signals
- Preventing other cars from passing or changing lanes
- Flashing bright headlights
- Passing a stopped school bus

When aggressive driving escalates into road rage, you might see a driver:

- Throw objects at a vehicle.
- Scream at other people or make angry gestures.
- Ram another vehicle
- Sideswipe another vehicle.
- Force another vehicle off the road.

Ways to avoid road rage in your car:

Between other people not paying attention and heavy traffic, driving can be frustrating. But it's important to stay in control of your emotions behind the wheel. Here are some tips to help you avoid succumbing to aggressive behaviors.

1. Give yourself time to get where you're going

Before you ever get behind the wheel, create realistic expectations about your travel. If you need to be somewhere at a specific time, make sure you factor in expected traffic or possible delays.

2. Don't drive while experiencing intense emotion

If you had a frustrating day at work or got in a fight with a dear friend, you might not be in the best headspace to get behind the wheel. If you're already angry or upset, don't drive. Put off non-essential trips until you calm down. If you have something scheduled that you can't miss, ask a friend or family member to drive, or consider calling a rideshare service.

3. Build positive driving habits

Don't speed through traffic or weave between vehicles. Avoid cutting other drivers off and making rude gestures or remarks.



4. Only use your horn if necessary

Car horns are primarily designed for emergency use.

5. Be understanding of other drivers

Before you allow your frustration to build, try putting yourself in the other driver's seat. Chances are, you've accidentally sat at a green light for a few seconds or forgotten to signal ahead of a lane change. If you remind yourself that other drivers aren't perfect or out to get you, it can help prevent you from responding aggressively.

Ways to avoid road rage from other drivers:

You can only control your own behavior and driving decisions, but you can drive defensively and take specific actions to keep yourself safe from other angry drivers. Here are some best tips for when someone around you is acting recklessly.

1. Remove yourself from the situation.

It's important to avoid drivers exhibiting dangerous behavior however you can. Dangerous behavior includes tailgating, aggressive braking or swerving. Create distance between yourself and the aggressive driver by getting over to let them pass or slowing down and watching them speed off into the distance.

2. Ignore them if they're being rude.

Ignore angry gestures, you don't want to escalate the situation, and you never know what could set someone off and make them become violent.

3. Call for help if necessary.

If you are the target of an angry driver, call 911 immediately and drive to a public location or your nearest police station, even if an aggressive driver is only targeting one vehicle, they're a threat to everyone on the road. Calling the police helps ensure everyone's safety.

4. Apologize after a mistake.

No driver is perfect, so always apologize when you make a mistake. If you inadvertently proceed without the right of way or get too close to the car in front of you, a friendly wave and smile can help keep everyone calm.



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