



# East Buffalo Township Newsletter

589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania 17837 — 570-523-6320 — www.ebtwp.org

Fall 2009

## Stream Bank gets a Makeover Thanks to Trio of Grants

If you've been to the Lewisburg Area Recreation Park on St. Marys Street this summer, you've probably noticed that a lot of work has been done in and along the banks of Limestone Run, the stream that crosses the southern edge of the park.

Stream banks that were suffering from erosion were stabilized in various ways. The most common approach was to give the banks a more gradual slope, reseed the bank and then place a layer of jute netting over the surface. For now, stakes are holding the netting in place, but as the plantings mature and send out their roots, they will help keep the bank and the jute in place, while shading and cooling the stream.

In two places, the stream banks were altered to form broad stream benches that have been planted and covered with jute netting.

These low-lying benches will make access to the water's edge easier and safer, while at the same time offering more storage area for water after big rainstorms.

Finally, stretches of the embankment particularly vulnerable to erosion were protected with newly placed rip-rap (large stones). In addition, hundreds of new saplings have been planted along the stream banks. These saplings are native species of shrubs that grow naturally along Pennsylvania's stream banks. When they mature, this stretch of Limestone run will have a more natural/wild appearance, although some areas will be maintained free of shrubs so that park visitors can still enjoy the water at close range.

Several sets of "log deflectors" have also been placed in the stream itself. Some are

in pairs that form a V-shape with the open ends anchored in each bank. Others simply jut into the stream from one bank or the other. The purpose of these structures is to help concentrate more of the stream flow toward the middle of the course, helping to protect the banks from erosion.

In addition, several logs have been placed side by side along one bank just above the water surface. Their purpose is to create a deeply shaded area that will enhance the habitat for fish.

All of this work was overseen by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and paid for with grant money from the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Program, the Fish and Boat Commission and the Union County Conservation District.

## Rail Trail Project Forges Ahead

Over the summer, work on the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail forged ahead: steel rails and wooden cross ties were removed from the rail-trail corridor, the remaining dirt was lightly graded and compacted, and the first stages of the design and engineering work for Phase I of the project were begun.

During Phase I, a nine-mile section of trail beginning near 12th Street in East Buffalo Township and ending near 10th Street in Mifflinburg will be designed and constructed. The project will be put out for bid in the fall of 2010, with the construction phase reaching completion sometime in 2011 with funds coming from a \$3.7 million Smart Transportation Grant administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Larson Design Group, which has been hired to handle the design and engineering aspects

of the project, is working closely not only with the new executive director of the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority, Kevin Drewencki, but also with the LARA board and rail-trail committee as well. Union County Planner Shawn McLaughlin has been designated as the coordinator of the project for purposes of working with PennDOT's grant administrators.

LARA and West Shore Railroad are currently working with the Public Utilities Commission to officially abolish the grade crossings along the corridor. The grade crossings at 15 th Street, 16 th Street, Bull Run Crossing, Fairfield Road and Hoffa Mill Road in East Buffalo Township have already been repaired.

While the unfinished trail may look inviting, it is not yet in a condition where it could be used safely by the public. The trail is carried over Limestone Run at several points by

bridges, some of them fairly high, that have no railings. In at least one place, groundhogs have constructed multiple burrows right in the center of the trail corridor.

You might have seen people out on the trail. Some might be trespassers, but others may not be. LARA maintenance crews and volunteer helpers have been out on the trail working to control encroaching vegetation. Crews from the engineering firm have been out doing survey work, and the trail has also been visited by representatives from PennDOT and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as well as others involved in the design and funding process.

As of this writing, a Buffalo Valley Rail Trail capital campaign with a three-year goal of raising \$500,000 is on the verge of being launched.

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## Emergency Preparedness

Natural or man-caused disasters can occur at anytime anywhere. Our own area has experienced disasters which caused loss of life, injury and property destruction due to floods, high winds, tornadoes and drifting snow. Chemicals could one day spill from a truck crash on one of our busy local roads. Thus, preparing for a disaster is a prudent action.

In a major disaster, the township's small police and public works departments would likely call for assistance from local contractors, other municipalities and the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The County EMA might decide to request resources from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). And if still more help is needed, the Commonwealth could call on its mutual aid agreements with other states or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). However, the assembly, movement and deployment of resources from outside the area to restore normalcy would take time.

Thus, when a disaster strikes, individuals and families need to be ready to provide for themselves initially as local response abilities may be strained and time will be required for aid to arrive from outside the area.

In an emergency situation, you and your family may not be able to leave your home. Services such as land phone, cell phone, electricity and water may be knocked out, possibly for an appreciable time. Thus, it is advisable to have supplies on hand to meet your basic needs for three days. These include ready-to-eat or easily prepared food, non-alcoholic beverages and plenty of water, which you could need not only to drink, but also for personal hygiene and even flushing toilets. With electric service outages in the cold weather, winter clothing may be needed in the house. Other items to have available are prescription drugs, toiletries, individual care supplies and a first-aid kit.

Other tools and supplies needed for an emergency are paper plates, cups,

disposable eating utensils, a battery-operated radio and battery-powered lights with spare batteries, and a hand-operated can opener. With some thought about your family situation, other supplies to meet your needs can be stockpiled in your home to survive an emergency.

Beyond providing for your own family, there are also ways to assist others in an emergency. The Union County Public Safety Department, through Homeland Security, trains volunteers for Citizens Emergency Response Teams (CERT), whose purpose is to aid neighbors during an emergency. In addition, residents of the township are particularly well situated to assist by volunteering to serve on the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff. This EOC, which is located within the township, would need people for around-the-clock operation to receive requests for assistance and work with other staff members to help to plan recovery work, to arrange for resources for the recovery effort, to allocate these resources and to track the cost of the recovery effort. To volunteer for CERT training or the EOC staff, contact the Union County Public Safety Department at 523-3201.

Finally, a portion of the township's emergency planning is the identification of residents with special needs. This information is for emergency preparedness purposes only! For example, the name and address of a resident who must have electricity to operate life-supporting medical equipment and of physically limited persons who would require assistance in the event of an emergency/disaster are needed for the plan. Those who have such needs are asked to notify the township office at 523-6320 so their need can be added to the Township Emergency Plan.

*Larry Erdley  
East Buffalo Township  
Emergency Management Coordinator*

## Getting it Right in Public Rights-of-Way

Our road network is really an interlinked system of public rights-of-way. While street rights-of-way vary in East Buffalo Township from 10 to 50 feet wide, the paved surface seldom occupies the entire width of the public right-of-way (allies are a common exception).

And in many places, public rights-of-way exist where there is no pavement at all: for instance in areas where future street construction is planned, where utility infrastructure exists above or below ground and where stormwater management agreements are in place.

It's not uncommon for public rights-of-way to extend several feet beyond the edges of the pavement. Along many streets, this area is critical for drainage. Traffic control signs are sited within rights-of-way as well.


In residential neighborhoods, residents usually maintain a lawn right up to the edge of the pavement or shoulder. In more rural areas, the township road crew mows the public rights-of-way to help maintain sight distances, maintain good drainage, and prevent the growth of woody vegetation whose branches could interfere with cars and whose roots could undermine the pavement.


Residents should not erect any sort of structure within a public right-of-way, nor should they plant woody vegetation in them. It is also advisable to keep flower beds outside the public right-of-way. That way if the township needs to alter the right-of-way as part of a paving or drainage project, the plants you have carefully tended will not be destroyed.

Finally, public rights-of-way do not just lie on the ground, they extend 15 feet above the surface, which brings us to the subject of tree trimming. The goal of our tree trimming is to properly expose street signs and traffic control signs and eliminate low hanging branches that when snow-laden could hang low enough to endanger vehicles. As October is the last curbside yard waste pick-up for this year, now would be a good time to help by trimming back obtrusive limbs that may have grown at the edge of your property. See Yard Waste article on next page for information on how to stage such materials for collection.

## Fall Leaf Collection and Christmas Tree Collection

Fall leaf collection does not take place on a set schedule, since only Mother Nature decides when trees shed their leaves. That said, the township plans to begin leaf collection in mid to late October and to make a final pass during the week of Thanksgiving.

 Residents are asked to pile or windrow leaves along the edge of the street (not in the street). We also ask that you do not bag leaves. However, leaves can be tarped to keep them from blowing back onto the lawn.

 Please keep limbs, large twigs, root balls and any other solid yard/garden waste out of your leaf pile, since the vacuum truck is not designed to

ingest these items, which could cause damage to the truck and/or injury to township personnel if they are vacuumed up along with the leaves.

Weather permitting, Christmas tree collection will begin Jan. 3 and end on Jan. 15. As always, remove wires, decorations and ornaments. Trees should be placed at the edge of the street for pick-up.



## Volume of Yard Waste Collected Spikes in '09



The curbside collection of yard waste, which does not include grass clippings, seems to be appreciated by East Buffalo Township residents. In the past three years before curbside collection began, the cubic yardage of material collected annually was 132, 264, and 225 respectively. Through August of this year, the township has collected 979 cubic yards of material. No small feat!

While the Township is still refining the collection process, many residents deserve a Thank You for staging their material as requested: branches and twigs in one pile and soft, vacuum-friendly material in another. Thank-you!

Residents must understand this service is not intended to compete with commercial arborists or landscapers. Consequently, they should not rely on the township to remove commercially staged material. The process continues to evolve.

## Help the Snow Plow Drivers

Before the ground freezes, residents may wish to install marker poles along the frontage of their property. These markers will stick up above the snow during the winter allowing township plow drivers to avoid accidentally plowing up your yard when they are clearing the streets. Speaking of snow, we would like to remind residents that it is illegal to move snow onto the street.



## Seal Coating Roads Extends Their Lives and Saves You Money

Like your blacktop driveway, township streets occasionally require a seal coat to rejuvenate bituminous oils and protect the road from its #1 enemy -- water.

After seal coating a driveway, you typically don't drive on it for 24 to 48 hours. That's a luxury we don't have when seal coating township roads. Instead, we use a process commonly known as "tar and chip," in which a coat of CRS-2PM, a bituminous base oil with a polymer additive,



is applied to the road surface followed by a layer of compatible aggregate (aka small stones), which is rolled to help fix it in place.

The road can be driven on again immediately after the stones are rolled. The process adds no structural integrity to the road, but it does increase its longevity. Since it's much, much more expensive to resurface a road with fresh asphalt, tarring and chipping results in significant savings for the taxpayers over the long run.



**Online resource:** The schedule and staging process can be reviewed on the Township web site at <http://www.ebtwp.org> by clicking on recycling on the left side of the homepage.



## On the Road Again with Miss Road Manners *By Freddi Carlip (aka Miss Road Manners)*

Autumn is upon us, and the scene along the roads in East Buffalo Township is a delight for the eyes. The changing leaves paint our surroundings with color. Animals are scurrying to store up for the winter. The air is crisp and the dry leaves crackle under our feet as we walk or run or beneath our bikes if we ride. The shadows are different after the autumnal equinox, and each outdoor excursion is an adventure in sights and sounds.

Oops! I'm ready to break into a rendition of "Autumn Leaves," so I'd better get to the point.

Autumn also brings more runners to our roads as high school and college cross-country teams train hard to do well at their meets. The dedication shows on their faces as each group passes. Notice I said each group.

Cross-country teams tend to run in a pack. Running on the roads means running in a pack is not acceptable. It's dangerous for the runners and for drivers and cyclists, too. Miss Road Manners, ever-tolerant of runners, isn't tolerant of high school or college runners who don't use common sense.

**SINGLE FILE...AGAINST TRAFFIC...NO IF, AND, OR BUTS, PERIOD; CASE CLOSED.** Remember the above if you run in a group (which for runners or walkers is more than one). This Rule of the Road is for all group runners or walkers. You

must quickly move to single file if a car is coming. Sharing the road doesn't mean taking up half of it.

Miss Road Manners runs the roads of East Buffalo Township and sees runners and walkers forgetting it's not about them as they ignore safe running/walking. At that point, Miss Road Manners gets very upset, stares the culprits down and growls; albeit not too loud.

Runners and walkers with dogs (another bone of contention, if you will) also forget or choose to ignore road safety. It's not Fido's fault; it's the owner ignoring road courtesy. The dog walkers don't forget their waste bags, but they do forget their road manners.

Some township roads aren't busy, but that doesn't give people license to run or walk amok with their canine companions. Miss Road Manners has seen people walking their dogs off-leash, or on a retractable leash that has too much leeway (or "leash way").

Add to that the many dog owners who walk or run with their dogs on the wrong side of the road, cars coming up behind them as they walk along with Fido, oblivious to their surroundings, and to others. It's enough to make Miss Road Manners mighty angry which is not a good thing.

The words that strike fear in any walker or runner

are, "He's friendly. He won't bite you."

Sure, and Miss Road Manners has a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you...

Property owners need to be mindful of their dogs. Many times they are unleashed on their own property. Remember they will protect said property by barking, running towards the walker/runner; perhaps with teeth bared, too.

Miss Road Manners has had countless experiences with dogs coming out to "greet" her. Even if the dog is friendly, it could cause the runner/walker/cyclist to trip, swerve or even crash.

Dogs need to be controlled when they are outside. This isn't about a runner going by disturbing Fido. It's about Fido's owner being in control of his/her dog.

So, enjoy autumn's stunning scenery as you traverse the roads of our beautiful township. And always remember, Miss Road Manners is out there, watching.

***Mind your Road Manners and do Miss Road Manners proud.***

*Freddi Carlip is a member of the East Buffalo Township Bike-Pedestrian Committee and has lived and run in East Buffalo Township since 1978.*