

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Maureen Ott, Ringgold Region III Board Director



Have you ever wondered if classes at Ringgold School District will be cancelled or delayed? Or when is the next sporting event or school play? Well, Ringgold has several ways for you to keep abreast of the latest news. Ringgold School District is on Facebook, Twitter and this year we have an app for your phone! The app is available in both Google Play and Apple App Stores. Just search for Ringgold School District. Never miss your favorite event again! Get all the latest information on closures and delays, or upcoming events. Download the app, follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook to keep up to date with school news. And, as always, the latest Ringgold information, schedules, and employment opportunities are also available on the district website, www.ringgold.org.



PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER 2019

As the weather begins to get milder, it would be easy to pull the salt spreaders off of the trucks and start road projects. The only problem with this thought is the fact that we could still see snow covered roads even into April.

Planning is well underway for our summer projects, and we are accepting bids on road material needs for 2019. Sealcoating of roads will be taking place on sections of Hamtom, Sugar Run, Parkview, Beagle Club and Sundust roads. Base repairs of Munntown, Barr, Cooper, Beagle Club, Hamtom and Sugar Run roads will be done early this spring, and will be at the expense of Sunoco. Sunoco will handle the expense of repairing these roads due to the damage occurring over the past two years of their pipeline construction.

The Township paving projects for this year will include sections of Munntown, Sugar Run, Dyers Stone, Withrow and Mansion Hill roads. As always, repair of inlet boxes and pipe replacement projects will be ongoing throughout the construction season.

Wet weather slides have plagued Southwestern Pennsylvania and did not skip over Nottingham Township. We have all seen the television news stories, and read the horror stories in our local

newspapers regarding the enormous damage caused from extreme rain amounts. Hillside slides have given way taking homes and roads with them. The record breaking rainfall we have seen over the past several years has wreaked havoc on properties all over Pennsylvania. Nottingham Township has experienced damaging slides, too. In June of 2018, a slide occurred on Beagle Club Road. This slide is 200 feet in length, and has taken a large portion of the road over the hillside. This hillside is 50 feet high, and has deposited a large portion of Beagle Club Road into the creek bed below. Repairs to this hillside and road are estimated to be \$300,000.

Nottingham Township applied for a grant with the DEP in this amount to assist in the overwhelming expense of repairing this slide and all the damage caused. We were informed earlier this year that Nottingham Township was one of two Washington County communities awarded this grant funding. Presently, we are working through all the contract documents and look to be repairing the Beagle Club Road Slide this coming summer.

A second slide occurred on Withrow Road over the winter. The slide has forced the closure of one lane of the road. The Public Works Department will be tackling this repair project over the next month. Several large oak trees will be removed, hillside stabilization and underdrain work will be performed prior to repaving this section of roadway sometime this spring.

As always, drive safely and be careful.

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Kym Seecret

Message from the Chairman

By Peter V. Marcoline, Jr. Chairman, Board of Supervisors

DEMAND TO CHANGE HOURS OF SOLICITATION

In January 2019, the Township received a demand from a law firm representing Aptive Environmental, LLC (Aptive) to change the 8:00 p.m. curfew, currently the curfew in the Township Solicitation Ordinance, to 9:00 p.m. As most residents may know, Aptive is a nationwide pest control company that has intensely solicited Township residents in the past few years to purchase their products. The Aptive solicitors can be readily identified as they use two wheeled scooters to travel around the highly developed subdivisions in the area such as Nottingham Forest and Walnut Ridge.

The law firm contended that the 8:00 p.m. curfew on commercial solicitation set forth in our Ordinance violated the First and Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. In addition, the law firm claimed that numerous Courts, both Federal and State, had ruled the their solicitors had a right to solicit up until 9:00 p.m. and additionally claimed that Aptive stood to lose thousands of sales every day if it was prohibited by the curfew from soliciting for that one additional hour period from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The law firm provided no particular statistics as to exactly why the one hour difference in Nottingham Township would result in a loss of millions of dollars of revenue.

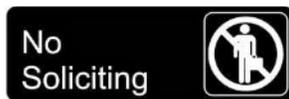
Upon review, Township officials, including their solicitor, found it hard to believe the claim of millions of dollars of lost revenue because of the size of the population of Nottingham Township. The Township has approximately 3,000 residents, most of which reside in the Nottingham Forest, Walnut Ridge and Evanston Heights subdivisions, would somehow equate to a loss of several millions of dollars for the one hour time period. It is a specific recollection of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, who resides in Nottingham Forest, that the Aptive solicitors ranged very freely throughout the plan and without restrictions.

The Board has not made a decision as to whether or not the change in the curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. is warranted. Our solicitor, who received the initial complaint, has not responded to Aptive's demand and the Township believes that further study is needed of the demand as well as the Court cases cited by the law firm, as to whether or not a change in the curfew is warranted.

Because the change in the hours from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., primarily in the summertime, directly effects those individuals who are receiving knocks on their doors when it is dark or almost dark, are invited to comment to the Board of Supervisors. Let us know whether or not a change in the curfew hours from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. is warranted, or simply an outrageous demand.

Residents can let us know their thoughts by sending the Township a letter, shoot us an email, or call the office. See our contact information below.

Nottingham Township nottinghamtp@comcast.net 724-348-5622
909 Sugar Run Road • Eighty Four, PA 15330



Remember

Always be careful when opening your door to anyone you do not know.

If you are not comfortable opening your door to an unknown person, do not!

Solicitors and/or salesmen are not permitted to solicit on any property that displays a "NO SOLICITING" sign visible from the road.

BURNING OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Every spring time, many residents must dispose of wood products and certain brush by burning, which is a permitted activity in the Township with some restrictions. As it has been addressed in previous newsletters, no fire is allowed to burn or smolder without a responsible adult being present, and all fires must be fully extinguished when burning is complete. Residents who engage in burning wood should consider their neighbors as smoke can adversely affect the nearby residents. This is especially significant in the more densely populated areas of the Township.

PROHIBITED PARKING IN NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP

All Township residents have been previously advised there are restrictions for on-street parking in the Township. These restrictions prohibiting parking on any street in the Township from 2:00 a.m. through 6:00 a.m. and during any snow event when our snow plows are out plowing snow. This, of course, is a public safety issue as Nottingham Township has no street lights. An accident could easily happen when a vehicle is left parked on the street and an oncoming vehicle cannot see it. This is especially true in the winter time during a snow. The car could be covered with snow and the plow driver unable to see it clearly, causing an accident. This can not only damage the car, but the Township vehicle and employee.

Township residents should be reminded that most adjoining communities strictly prohibit on-street parking. These ordinances are enforced by their police force. Nottingham Township relies on the Pennsylvania State Police which does not have authority to enforce this Ordinance.

If you need to park your vehicle on the street - call the office and let us know! 724-348-5622



Co-existing with Wildlife

In recent years, more and more sightings and interactions with wildlife have occurred throughout Nottingham Township. Coyote, fox, raccoons, hawks and yes, even the occasional sighting of a black bear and bobcat have been spotted throughout our Township. Nottingham is bordered by the beautiful Mingo Creek County Park to the south, and miles of agricultural and wooded areas toward the north. Expanding communities and industry are placing more and more homes right on the doorstep of thriving wildlife habitats. Wild animals are left with less and less habitat and are coming into greater contact with humans. As a result, you may see them hanging out in your backyard. These critters are often more afraid of us than we are of them!

Wildlife sitings, and the occasional problem caused by wildlife, are usually the result of people drawing wildlife into residential areas by attempting to feed. Bird feeders, suet, throwing table scraps in the yard, improperly stored garbage, feeding your pets outdoors, and even a grease loaded grill, can lure wildlife to your yard. Once an animal knows it can get food it will likely be back for more.

Deer are probably the most common form of wildlife in this area and if you see one, there are probably 4 or 5 more nearby. They are commonly known for their garden raiding ability and will devour certain outdoor plants. Did you know that deer LOVE tulips? If you are interested in discouraging this type of damaging deer behavior you need to make modifications to your home and yard by erecting a fence to keep deer at bay, and/or removing certain types of plants and vegetation that deer love.



Coyotes are naturally very skittish animals and afraid of humans. They are intelligent and adaptable to their surroundings. They can range in the area of 25 – 35 pounds, with long legs and thick fur making them appear larger than they are. Coyote howling or other vocalizations are probably more common to hear than actually seeing a coyote. They normally hunt small mammals (mice, voles, rabbits), but will eat fruit and berries. Unfortunately, they have been known to prey on unattended domestic pets such as cats and dogs if given the opportunity. This does not indicate danger to humans, but is a natural coyote behavior. This type of behavior can be prevented by reducing food attractants outdoors, and not letting pets outside unattended, unless you have an enclosure or fence. Should you site a coyote don't panic! They are probably just passing through and can be scared away by "hazing". Hazing is when you make yourself appear as big as possible by raising your arms over your head, widening your stance and making loud noises with your voice and clapping. This should scare the coyote away.

Want to discourage visits from wild animals? Try the following:

1. Do not feed wildlife – this encourages animals to become dependent on handouts.
2. Do not provide shelter – a building in poor repair, or an opening under a shed, can all be an invitation to wildlife. They love to squeeze into small spaces.
3. Erect a fence – Not full proof but will certainly help.

NEVER APPROACH ANY INJURED ANIMAL OR ANY ANIMAL WITH BABIES.

If you have questions or concerns about wildlife in this area, or feel threatened by wildlife in this area, contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission Southwest Region at 724-238-9523 or visit their website www.PGC.STATE.PA.US.

Nottingham Township Recreation Board Plans Roadside Clean-Up Day

Join other community residents for our Annual Clean-Up Day. We'll be cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides. Anyone can help!

**When: Saturday, April 27th
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Together we can make a difference!

Meet at the Twp. Building at 9:30 a.m.; return at 11:30 a.m.
Gloves, vests, coffee, doughnuts & lunch provided.



**DO YOU NEED
VITAL HOME
REPAIRS?**

**BUT CAN'T AFFORD
THEM?**

Check out the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington,

HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM

This program assists income eligible homeowners to make repairs and improvements to their homes. The loan may be used to correct present, or soon to be present, housing problems and for energy conservation improvements. Most repairs are eligible except for unnecessary cosmetic improvements. Qualified applicants may receive a maximum loan of \$24,500 at 0% interest forgiven over a 10 year period.

For more information, call 724-228-6875 x 221, or visit www.racw.net

Nottingham Township Annual Car Show & Touch a Truck!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH
10:00 A.M. ~ 2:00 P.M.**



Nottingham Township Municipal Complex

Donations for admission will benefit the Valley Inn Fire Department. Plaques given out to the first 50 vehicles. Trophies will be awarded for categories of cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Delicious food from Paula's Hometown Hot Dogs and More. D.J. Mike Greci will be on hand to liven up the event! Door prizes, 50/50 Raffle, and a Touch-A-Truck event for the children.

**Primary Election
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Polls open 7 AM - 8 PM**

**is your
VOTE**

Make your
reservation
today!



Don't forget about our large pavilion nestled in the heart of Sherwood Park. It can accommodate 100 people, has charcoal grills, electrical outlets and running water. Basketball court, tennis court and ballfield are available as a first come, first served basis. Pavilion Rental fee is \$75.

Have an upcoming graduation or family reunion?

NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP
909 Sugar Run Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VENETIA, PA 15367
PERMIT #28