



Chester County, PA

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Message from the Chairman

If you take the time to read this issue of the Franklin Township Newsletter, cover to cover, you'll possibly: be prouder than ever of our local youth...be reminded of the beauty of the remaining rural aspects of the township. ...know where to drop off many things you'd like to dispose of ... marvel at the wide variety of bird species on just a few parcels in the Township. ... see how much just one committed and energetic volunteer can accomplish ... be happy with your Board of Supervisors for renewing one of the very few Impact Fees (on new development) that townships can levy ... not need to shovel the same snow twice ... help the snow plows get through promptly and safely ... know what the traffic barricades are all about by the Kemblesville School ... save yourself possibly tens of thousands of dollars on a new septic drainfield ... be in a position to decrease negative impacts of stormwater runoff ... avoid puncturing a pipeline (with the drama and potential damage that could cause) ... and be astounded by the picture taking abilities of our newsletter editor. Phew ... after all that, it might be time to relax and soak in mother nature by hitting the trails in Franklin's Crossan Park (on Parsons Rd.), or maybe play a set or two or three of tennis if that's your method of relaxation.

Actually, as difficult as it is to believe, some may find a bit of the content in this issue of the newsletter to be on the boring side (much like you'd probably categorize the writer of this intro). But that, to me at least, is a very, very good thing. For the most part, boring is a positive when it comes to local government. Rather than being on the evening news, or observing helicopters overhead, I suspect that

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Encouraging Youth to get Involved

It's a win-win situation when a young person chooses to get involved in their community through volunteering or implementing a community service project.

Organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts, 4-H, and local high schools, encourage volunteering and service projects to benefit the local community.

The youth gain valuable experience in leadership and civic responsibility and our Township reaps the benefit from the work that is done.

"We want our residents to know Franklin Township is youth-friendly," says Supervisor Nan Latimer, who also acts as the Township's service project coordinator. "We keep a wish list of service projects that could be accomplished by interested youth in the Township. All they have to do is ask. There are currently plenty of opportunities for work on trails and clearing invasive plants this winter."

This year, two local Boy Scouts chose to work with Franklin Township to complete their Eagle Scout community service project. Mookie Reich, of Troop 10, recently completed a new garden with a birdbath that covers the well pipe to spruce up the Franklin Township building. Joe Pitts, of Troop 18, is in the planning phase of a project to renovate some gardens at Crossan Park in the spring.

The Eagle Scout project requires each candidate to plan and execute a community service project that takes at least 100 hours to complete. The Scout must work with representatives of the project's organization in the planning of the project and then lead others in completing the project.



Mookie Reich, of Troop 10 Chester County Council Boy Scouts of America, has completed his Eagle Scout project, which was to plant a garden to beautify the Township Building. His project included building a custom bird bath to cover the well pipe.

Another way to encourage youth participation in their community is through attending the Township's public meetings. Many times, attending a public meeting is a requirement for merit badges in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, or as an assignment in civics and social studies classes in high school.

In Franklin Township, the Supervisors' Work Session is held on the second Wednesday and the Board of Supervisors' Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Township Building. Meeting agendas are posted online, which could help a youth prepare for attending the meeting.

"At meetings, we'll take the time to talk to young visitors, explain what is happening, and answer their questions when the meeting is over," says Latimer. "The Work Session and Board of Supervisors' meetings are great opportunities to see local government in action."

Report on Township Bird Surveys

"Birds are perhaps the best and most visible indicator of the quality of habitat on a piece of land," states Derek Stoner in the final reports on bird surveys conducted between July and October, 2007 on two properties in the Township. "The purpose of the survey is to determine what birds are utilizing the property for both breeding and migratory stopover habitat."

Property A, 29 acres along the White Clay Creek, is described as a forest habitat with large mature trees and understory plants. A total of 68 species (45 breeding and 28 migratory) were observed over 8 visits to the site. Notable bird species sighted include Coopers Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Arcadian Flycatcher, Veery, Louisiana Waterthrush, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Thirty-two hours were spent observing birds on Property B, which yielded 108

Species Groups	Property A	Property B
Raptors	5	6
Woodpeckers	6	6
Flycatchers	5	7
Vireos	3	5
Swallows	0	3
Thrushes	4	5
Warblers	10	16
Sparrows	4	9
Blackbirds	0	6

species observations. This site included large expanses of hay fields, mature forest, freshwater wetland, and thicket habitats for birds. Among the notable birds observed were: Belted Kingfisher, Wood Duck, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ovenbird, Prairie Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, American Redstart, and Brown Creeper.

"The bird studies were conducted at the request of the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Management Committee as part of their efforts to document the wildlife resources of the watershed," said Phil Geoghegan, Chairman of the Open Space Committee. "The Township agreed to support the studies because we were interested in knowing that information as well, to give us another tool to use in obtaining grants from the state and county. The information will also help us decide whether/where to put nature trails for the observational and educational benefit of our residents, especially the kids."

Message from Chairman....

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most of us want local government to quietly provide opportunities for youth, protect the environment (in quite a number of ways), remove the snow off of the roads, take opportunities when they arise to make intersections easier to negotiate, collect Impact Fees when legal to do so, etc., etc... as well as recognizing quite impressive picture taking skills.

Can you tell that I really enjoy the picture of an Eagle that appears on page 6. When I first saw it I thought, "Wow, that's a really good image to use in a newsletter that, in part, highlights bird studies, protecting the environment, and, obviously, the accomplishments of a local Eagle Scout. Then I learned that the image was captured by our very own newsletter editor, Carla Lucas, whose quite the picture taker when she's not trying to make sense out of things written by people like me.

Possible minor boredom aside, we sincerely hope you find this issue of the newsletter informative and helpful. As always, if you have ideas for future newsletters, please let us know (610-255-5212). Also, as always, please feel free to contact me at 610-255-4592 or rwwhipple1@aol.com, with any questions or comments. Last but not least, if you have any really good eagle pictures, please send them in. Who knows how many images of eagles the next newsletter might contain.

Dick Whipple
Chairman, FTBOS

About the eagle: Although eagles are occasionally seen in our area, this digital image was taken with a 200m lens, at about six to eight feet from an eagle at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Two eagles that are unable to survive in the wild are part of the native plants and wildlife exhibit at the museum. This eagle had a tumor on its head that affected its vision and therefore its ability to hunt.

not enter this information in the County database, you are ultimately responsible to prove your system was pumped and will need a receipt as documentation.

The goal of this program is to help protect our groundwater, avoid unnecessary sewage system failures, and save everyone time and money in the long run.

On-Lot Sewage Management Program

Every home in Franklin Township is currently served by an on-lot sewage system. While the particular designs may vary, all have one thing in common: regular maintenance is essential to both protect the environment and avoid unnecessary expenses. The single most effective maintenance activity that can and should be performed on all on-lot sewage systems is the regular pumping of the primary treatment tank, typically called a septic tank. This simple activity will remove the accumulated solids in the treatment tank, prevent solids from traveling out of the tank and damaging the drainfield, and allow the natural treatment processes in the tank to work as intended.

Franklin Township has an on-lot sewage management ordinance that requires, among other things, that every homeowner have their sewage system pumped out at least once every three years. Programs like this are in place in many other Chester County Townships as well, and are strongly encouraged by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Franklin will be revisiting some details of the on-lot sewage management program in the near future, but

the regular pumping of treatment tanks will remain as the core of this program. Future newsletters will have more information to explain any changes and discuss sewage system maintenance in more depth.

If it's been more than three years since you last had your system pumped, contact a Chester County Health Department licensed liquid waste hauler (a firm that pumps & hauls sewage) to schedule a pump-out. A list of licensed pumpers can be obtained by calling the Chester County Health Department at (610) 869-0560.

All sewage pumpers/haulers in Chester County are required to be licensed by the Chester County Health Department. As a condition of maintaining this license, they are also required to enter a record for each sewage system they pump into an electronic database maintained by the County.

Franklin may elect to use this database to help track system pumping. Always make sure the pumper you hire is licensed by the County and records your system's pumping in the County database. Keep receipts for all pumping though – if your pumper does

Act 209 Resolution Approved

Act 209 is the part of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code that allows townships to assess a Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) on any new development. The TIF is based on the number of trips per day a new commercial or residential project is projected to impact local township roads, not impacts from regional growth on state roads.

Over the past 18 months, an Act 209 Advisory Committee worked through the four-step process to determine what TIF could be levied on future development. Franklin Township's new Act 209 plan works on a time line through the year 2020. Work began on this document before the recent decline in the housing market; therefore, some of the improvements may be extended further into the future.

The first phase was a Land Use Assumption Report. The Advisory Committee forecasts a growth rate of 1,303 new dwelling units built on nearly 2,000 acres of land by 2020 (currently 881 new residential units are in sketch or application for development in the Township).

Phase Two was a Roadway Sufficiency Analysis. The Advisory Committee identified deficiencies in the Township's current roadway system and determined what measures could be taken to improve the safety and performance of roads as regional growth and local residential development increases. According to the report, a majority of the deficiencies can be addressed with road widening, traffic signalization, and/or the addition of turn lanes. Two zones—East of State Route 841 and West of State Route 841—were identified for improvements.

A Transportation Capital Improvement Plan was the third phase of Act 209. This document presents the costs associated with correcting the deficiencies identified in the Roadway Sufficiency Analysis. The total cost of upgrading Township roadways to meet projected growth was projected at \$4,721,000. TIF can only be used to fix problems on local roads, not problems caused by regional growth (called pass through traffic).

Because of this, the Transportation Capital Improvement Plan breaks down what projects are allocated to what sources of funding. Approximately 49 percent, or \$2,313,500, could be allocated to local

future development (\$2,087,000 in the East Zone and \$226,500 in the West Zone).

From there, the TIF is established by dividing the costs of local future development by the total number of evening peak driving hours (East Zone 896 trips and West Zone 448 trips) generated by the new development. This makes the TIF for the East Zone at \$2,347.65 and \$511.60 for the West Zone.

Finally, the Board of Supervisors adopts the TIF by ordinance, which occurred at the September 17 Board of Supervisors' Meeting. Now, every new residence built in the Township will be assessed the TIF for that zone.

Details of the ordinance and all resolutions pertaining to the Act 209 process are on file at the Township office.

Peacedale Road adjustment

When the Franklin Township Supervisors approved Avon Grove Charter School's plans to renovate the former Kemblesville Elementary School site, one condition of the approval was to change the alignment of Peacedale Road at Route 896. Sightlines and safety have always been issues at this intersection.

The current small detour through the AGCS driveway is a temporary patch until a permanent solution is agreed upon. This involves the usually lengthy PennDOT permitting process.

AGCS has until the beginning of the 2010 school year to complete a permanent solution at this intersection.

Winter weather reminder

The Township monitors road conditions 24 hours a day during all winter events, adjusting the plowing, and salting according to weather and road conditions. We request the cooperation of all residents to keep our roads as safe as possible during sleet, snow and ice.

Please help us by obeying the following requests:

- Cars, boats, trailers and basketball nets must be removed from all roadways and cul-de-sacs during winter weather events.
- Remove all rocks and landscaping from the right-of-way. Injury to drivers and damage to snowplows and trucks occurs when large objects that are hidden by the snow are hit.
- Use only flexible reflective markers to define the edge of the landscaping.

The Township is not responsible for objects that are within the legal right-of-way that are damaged during plowing; this includes mailboxes, vehicles, and landscaping.

Contrary to sometimes popular belief, snowplow operators do not aim for mailboxes. Actually, not hitting things

on our many twisting and turning roads provides more than enough challenge. Snow, especially wet snow, is very heavy and can knock things over if they are not firmly anchored.

Access to your mailbox for the US Postal Service to deliver your mail is the responsibility of the resident.

Detailed information about snow plowing, including tips for correctly clearing your driveway, can be found on the Franklin Township website: www.franklintownship.us, click on the snow plowing link.

"Our truck operators are human, and during a storm they work long hours, doing their best for the benefit of all," says Assistant Township Manager, Jeff Eastburn. "Please help them by not putting your plowed driveway snow into the roadway. Also, when you see a snowplow, give them room to work. Stay at least 100 feet away from the truck."

All questions and complaints about snow plowing should be directed to the Township Office at 610-255-5212, or emailed to info@franklintownship.us.

Shoveling Tip:
There's nothing more frustrating than when the snowplow comes down the street and plows new snow over your driveway after you've already shoveled.

By clearing a 15-foot long area along the road, in advance of your driveway, most of the plowed snow will be deposited there.

From Fox Chase to Kemblesville

Excerpted from Franklin Township's Comprehensive Plan: Historic Resources

18th Century

By 1750, the road from Lancaster to Newark, Delaware was laid out. Now called New London Road (Route 896), it was a major route for the transportation of agricultural products from Chester County farms to markets in Delaware. Roadway improvements led to the establishment of inns and stagecoach stops, including the Plough and Harrow Inn (c.1758) and Kemblesville Hotel (c.1763), as well as Franklin's villages—Kemblesville (originally called Fox Chase) and Chesterville.

19th Century

By the early 1800s, Fox Chase was a prosperous and busy village along the road from Newark to Lancaster boasting three mills, a hotel and a pottery works (Darlington Cope's Pottery). By 1816, Fox Chase was renamed Kimble, and later Kimbleville, after the prominent John J. Kimble family who settled the area in 1783. John's youngest son, George, was a storekeeper who opened the village's first post office in his shop in 1823 and served as postmaster for 33 years. George's brother Samuel, whose house stands on the southern limits of

Kemblesville, operated the hotel and tavern, which became the local polling place. Family members spelled the name "Kimble" or "Kemble," and throughout the 19th century the name of the village vacillated between "Kimbleville" and "Kemblesville."

20th Century

At the beginning of the 20th century, Kemblesville became increasingly important as a commercial center. Dr. J. G. West became one of the leading citizens of the village. A medical doctor, West lived in a brick house facing New London Road. He added a wing onto his house in the late 1800s where he operated a drug store and post office. Another leading citizen, C. T. Richards, opened a saddlery shop and owned a half interest in the village's blacksmith shop.

What do you know about SECCRA?

The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) is the landfill that takes all trash from our community.

SECCRA is a full-service environmental center that provides free recycling at 10 drop-off centers, plus used oil recycling, composting, large appliance disposal (including those with Freon) at its site at 219 Street Road (near Route 926) in Cochranville.

Did you know the SECCRA site is also a Salvation Army used clothing drop-off site? Or that SECCRA is generating electricity from the methane created at the landfill and selling back to energy companies?

Check out the SECCRA website at www.seccra.org to learn more. There's information about the best ways to conserve the limited space available in the landfill from recycling to reusing to not creating trash. Of special note, click on the Recycling link for a comprehensive "Do's and Don'ts of Recycling."

Thank you!

A sincere and heartfelt thank you goes out to Wendy Toman, the first chairperson of the Franklin Township Historic Commission and Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB). Recently, Wendy moved out of the Township and she has resigned from both organizations.

Over her tenure, Wendy conducted a great deal of research and was an enthusiastic collector of historic documents, photographs, and artifacts about Franklin Township. She contributed extensively to the Historic Resources section of the updated Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan.

Wendy guided the creation of both the Historic Commission and the HARB over the past decade. She was instrumental in researching and preparing the design guidelines used in the HARB application.

She was also responsible for three successful community events: the Franklin Township Photo Contest, the Benjamin Franklin Historic Walking Tour in Philadelphia, and the Underground Railroad Tour.

We will miss Wendy's dedication to and enthusiasm about Franklin Township's past.

Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

Dick Whipple, Chairman
Paul Overton, Vice Chairman
Eric Brindle, Member
Norman Hughes, Member
Nan Latimer, Member

Administration

Jeffrey Eastburn, Assistant Township Manager
Joan McVaugh, Treasurer
Sharon Norris, Secretary (W-F)
Eileen Rembecki, Secretary (M-T)
Duane Brady, Building Inspector and Zoning Officer

Contact Information

In person:

20 Municipal Lane
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4 pm

By Phone: 610-255-5212

By Fax: 610-255-0659

By Mail:

P. O. Box 118
Kemblesville, PA 19347

Email:

info@franklintownship.us

On the web:

www.franklintownship.us

Township Meetings

All meetings are held in the meeting room at the Township Office.

Supervisors' Work Session—

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Supervisors' Board Meeting—

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Planning Commission—

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

Historical Architectural Review Board and Historic Commission—

3rd Tuesday, odd months, 7pm

Open Space Committee—

2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm

Want more info?

The Township's website is continuously updated!

www.franklintownship.us

The Franklin Township Newsletter is published by the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors and produced by Lucas Communications and Publications.

*Make your home **The SOLUTION** To stormwater **POLLUTION!***

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.

- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints.
- Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

Pet Care

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Swimming Pool and Spa

- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.

Septic System Use and Maintenance

- Have your septic system inspected and pumped by a professional at least every 3 years.
- Care for the septic system drainfield by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drainfield to avoid damage from roots.
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items, such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter, can clog the septic system and potentially damage components.

For more information, visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website on stormwater at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

(Source: EPA publication. Reprinted with permission.)

Remember: Only rain in the drain!



What is the Colonial Pipeline that runs through the Township?

A 30-inch pipeline runs from Houston, Texas to Linden, New Jersey carrying 15,000 to 24,000 gallons of liquid petroleum products per hour. Called the Colonial Pipeline, it carries various types of refined petroleum products such as gasoline, aviation kerosene, diesel fuel, and home heating oil. No natural gas or crude oil is sent through the Colonial Pipeline.

The Colonial Pipeline Company is a shipping company that moves products for customers. The company does not own what is going through the line. Colonial Pipeline falls under the supervision and is regulated by the U. S. Department of Transportation, just like any other shipping company.

At two-cents a gallon, the 5,519 miles of pipeline is the most cost effective means for companies to transport the liquid petroleum products from the refineries in the South to the distribution center/storage tanks throughout the eastern United States.

A 4.6-mile section of the Colonial Pipeline runs through Franklin Township. Yellow, black and red marker signs are located along its route (see photo). The pipe is buried six to nine-feet underground, down the center of a 50-foot-wide right-of-way. No structures or trees are allowed within this right-of-way.

Colonial Pipeline Company adheres to a rigid inspection and maintenance schedule. Air inspections along the pipeline are completed on a weekly basis, which is one reason for a clear easement with no vegetation. Instruments or tools, called

pigs, are run through the pipeline. The tool is called a pig because it squeals a little bit as it goes through the line. Every three months a pig with a sponge is sent through that cleans the pipeline. Another type of pig is a smart pig. It can measure the density of the pipe along its route from the inside. If the "smart pig" detects a problem, then a crew is sent out



Colonial pipeline marks the pipeline with yellow, red, and black warning signs.

to inspect the pipe and repair or replace sections as needed.

The company also monitors the pressure along the entire pipeline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, from its Control Center in Atlanta, Georgia. It can detect almost instantly if there is a drop (because there is a rupture) or an increase (because of a blockage) in pressure. There are pumping stations approximately every 50 miles where the flow can be stopped, plus additional valves near wetlands, river crossings, and other points along the pipeline.

The greatest environmental hazard from the pipeline is a rupture that allows the liquid petroleum products to spill, contaminating the ground and water supply.

The liquid running through the pipeline is not flammable. It is the fumes that evaporate off the liquid petroleum products when exposed to air that can explode if exposed to a flame. Since 1961, Colonial Pipeline Company has never had an explosion, although there have been releases of liquid petroleum from the pipeline.

If there is a rupture in the pipeline, it can take up to one hour for Colonial Pipeline response crews to arrive at the scene.

The number one cause of a rupture is unauthorized digging from third parties. To prevent rupturing the pipeline and a major oil spill in our community, call 811 before beginning any excavation project near the marked pipeline.

Signs of a leak include:

- Petroleum product patches on the ground or sheen on the water.
- Spots of dead vegetation.
- Unusual noises coming from the pipeline or marker, anything from a hiss to a roar.
- An unusual odor; each petroleum product has its own characteristic scent.

If a leak is suspected, call 911, as local fire companies are trained to deal with pipeline leaks.

Colonial Pipeline offers a \$500 reward to anyone that reports unauthorized digging within the easements. Colonial Pipeline's 24-hour Control Center can be reached at 1-800-926-2728.

More information on Colonial Pipeline can be found at www.colpipe.com.