

A Growing Problem in FT

Trees limbs and branches growing into subdivision streets is becoming a problem in the Township (sorry for the pun in the headline). Street trees planted years ago are now maturing and their limbs are extending into the travel lanes, causing cars to swerve into oncoming lanes to avoid vehicle damage.

A large truck, like a trash truck or snow plow, must be able to travel with its right side tires on the right edge of the road and not hit branches with its mirror or the roof of the truck. Ultimately a canopy ends up growing over the roadway, but only with branches higher than the highest truck (approx. 13') that travels the road.

As the Township is responsible for the safety of the roads, it regularly does elevated cutting and mowing in the right-of-

ways along the Township's major roads, but rarely within subdivisions. It is suggested that property owners trim the branches extending into the roadway up to a height where the tallest truck will not hit the limbs. If problems continue, the Township will be forced to correct the situation by having the Township's contractor do the trimming.

Also, when trees, shrubs and plants grow near intersections in subdivisions it causes sight line problems for vehicles trying to enter a road. For corner properties especially, vegetation needs to be trimmed. A motorist at an intersection must see clearly in both directions. Once again, if property owners do not keep vegetation trimmed and sight lines open the Township will be forced to correct the problem.

PA's Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act

On July 1, the new Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act went into effect. It requires all contractors doing more than \$5,000 of work per year in the state of Pennsylvania to register with the Attorney General's office.

Attorney General Tom Corbett explains, "The intent of the act is to protect consumers from unscrupulous contractors, to provide new protection for consumers who hire home improvement contractors and to authorize criminal penalties for home improvement fraud."

Currently there are over 32,000 registered contractors in Pennsylvania. The Attorney General's office maintains an online database of all registered contractors, which can be accessed at www.attorneygeneral.gov or by calling toll-free 1-888-520-6680. Information for each contractor includes:

- Contact and insurance information;
- A description of the company;

- Information on any prior home improvement businesses;
- Names of anyone with an interest in the business;
- Any contractor licenses;
- Bankruptcy, criminal plea and conviction history;
- A map showing where the business is located;

The registration numbers contractors receive after successfully completing the registration process (and included on the website) are now required documentation when applying for building permits in Franklin Township.

A pamphlet about the new Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Information Act is available upon request at the Township Building. As always, call Duane Brady, Franklin Township's Building Inspector and Zoning Officer (610-255-5212) with questions about this requirement or any other permitting matter.

Chester County's Special Needs Registry

The Special Needs Registry is a coordinated effort at the county level to better identify those in our community who are most at risk during a disaster.

According to the Special Needs Registry website, "For the purpose of this project, a special needs individual is someone who cannot receive, understand or act upon emergency protective orders."

Anyone with an issue or condition that might cause them to need extra help in an evacuation or other disaster situation should register online at: [www.special-](http://www.special-needs.org)

[special-needs.org](http://www.special-needs.org).

The information provided is confidential and will remain private. It can only be accessed by the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator and the Chester County Department of Emergency Services for the purpose of emergency response and planning.

Residents who have questions or want help in registering can call Harold Walls, Franklin Township's Emergency Management Coordinator through the Township Office at 610-255-5212.

Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

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

Administration

Jeffrey Eastburn, Assistant Township Manager
Joan McVaugh, Treasurer
Sharon Norris, Secretary
Eileen Rembecki, Secretary (part time)
Maureen Zdun, Secretary (part time)
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
volunteer@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-

1st Tuesday, odd months, 7pm

Open Space Committee-

3rd Monday: Feb., May, Aug. and Nov., 7 pm

*tentative, enacted at Jan. 4, 2010 B of S organizational meeting

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.