



Volume 5 • No. 2

Fall 2011

UPPER
DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

The UPDATE

Keeping Our Residents Informed

Municipal Building: 1325 Highway 77, Seabrook NJ 08302 - 856-451-3811

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New Services and Businesses Coming to Upper Deerfield

The Senior Care Centers of America's new Adult Day Care facility on Highway 77 held its ground-breaking ceremony recently. The 8,500 square foot building hopes to be completed by the end of the year.

Dollar General is currently renovating the former Wax Brothers Furniture building with a grand open-

ing scheduled by the end of the year. Two other retail businesses will occupy space in the building in the future.

Bruce and Deborah Riley, owners of Ultra Clean, will be relocating their business to the 23,000 square foot building on Highway 77, across from Big Oak road, formerly occupied by Starbound Gymnastics.

Revaluation Employees Will Be Carrying I.D.

Vital Communications, Inc. is doing the Township's revaluation. All of their employees will have a photo identification badge and letter of introduction signed by Township officials. Township residents should ask to see these documents prior to allowing the interior inspection of their property. All Vital Communications employees and their automobile descriptions will be registered with the State Police and are on file with the Township Tax Assessor.

2011 Firefighter I Graduation Held July 14

This year's Firefighter I graduation was held on July 14th at the Cumberland County Fire/Rescue Training Center in Deerfield Township. Upper Deerfield volunteer fire companies were well represented in the graduating class. Congratulations go to Seabrook Fire & Rescue members Paul Beckwith, III, James Canon, Sr., Amanda Mehaffey, Casey Regalbuto, Rachel Rottkamp, Rebecca Thompson and Upper Deerfield Fire Company #3 member Michael Robbins.

Report Residential Storm Damage

If you sustained any storm damage to your residence or business from the storm on August 14th or from Hurricane Irene, please go to the Township website and click on the Hurricane Information icon or go to the County's website and click on the Submit Storm Damage Report icon and submit your damage information. This data collection effort **will not guarantee** any type of assistance, but will be utilized to help determine if Cumberland County could become eligible for federal assistance at a later date. This is only the beginning phase of the process, the damage cost estimates will be collected and sent to New Jersey Office of Emergency Management for review. Residents are still urged to work with their insurance company to see if their damages are covered.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please email the Cumberland County Emergency Management Office at Melindawe@co.cumberland.nj.us



Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the Senior Care Centers of America Adult Day Care Center on Highway 77 on July 19th. Pictured shoveling are executives from Senior Care Centers of America, clients of Senior Care Centers, owners of the building - MMTM Associates, and representatives from the Township Committee.

Martin, Lewis and Davis Roads to be Paved

The Township Committee has awarded a contract to South State Inc. to repave Martin, Lewis and Davis Roads utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. It is anticipated that the roads will be paved in October or November of 2011.

Township Website Offers Access To Public Records

On the Township's website, www.upperdeerfield.com, under Public Records icon on the home page, one can view the Township Committee's agendas, minutes, resolutions and ordinances for 2010 and 2011. Planning Board minutes, resolutions and agendas are also online for 2010 and 2011. Adopted Township budgets and financial audits are online from 2004 to 2011.



Joseph Molineaux, director of Small Business Development at Stockton, provided tips on using social media to market your business at the 2011 Upper Deerfield Township Business Conference.

A Note From The Tax Collector

Tax Collector's new hours are
8:30-2:30

Monday thru Friday

PTR booklet deadline has been extended to 10/31/2011

On Line Tax Payments

On line payments for taxes, water and sewer can be made from the Township website

www.upperdeerfield.com

There is a user fee of \$1.05 for each electronic check and a fee of \$3.95 for each Visa Debit Transaction with this service. All other Debit/Credit Card transactions will have a user fee of 2.95 % (percent) of the transaction.

From the Tax Assessor:

TOWNSHIP of UPPER DEERFIELD REVALUATION PROJECT BEGINS

The Township of Upper Deerfield, as a result of an order by the Cumberland County Tax Board to perform a complete revaluation of all real property within the Township of Upper Deerfield, has contracted with Vital Communications, Inc. of Trenton, New Jersey. Vital Communications, Inc. presently serves over 300 municipalities in the State of New Jersey.

The revaluation program is the task of measuring, inspecting and collecting data for all properties in the Township of Upper Deerfield and then estimating the current fair market value of those properties. In New Jersey, properties are to be assessed at 100% of value as of October 1st of the pre-tax year. The estimate of the current fair market value of all property will be as of October 1, 2011 and will become the tax assessment for the 2012 tax year.

The revaluation is not being conducted to raise money for the Township, the County of Cumberland, or the State of New Jersey. The sole purpose is to estimate a fair market value for each property, thereby equitably distributing real estate taxes. During the revaluation program, all properties are physically inspected and outside building dimensions are noted, to help insure the same standard of value. This achieves the purpose of equalizing property taxes.

Notices have been mailed to each property owner in the Township and field representatives are visiting each neighborhood. Property owners are requested to allow access to the property for inspection of the interior. Exterior measurements of all buildings will be taken. Upon final review of all data and calculations, the revaluation firm will mail to each taxpayer a notice advising them of

their new assessed value. The notice will also explain how to arrange for a personal informal review to discuss the proposed assessment.

Once the revaluation program is completed, the new tax rate for the 2012 tax year will not be determined until the new assessments are filed with the Cumberland County Board of Taxation and operating budgets for schools, county and local government are fixed. Budgets are not completed until several months after the filing of the tax list. You should not apply the 2011 tax rate to your new assessment. **Due to the anticipated increase in the overall taxable value of the Township, the 2012 tax rate will be lower than the 2011 tax rate.**

Vital Communications, Inc. would like to thank the residents of the Township of Upper Deerfield for their courtesy and cooperation for their anticipated participation in the year ahead.

Just A Friendly Reminder From Your Dog Registrar



Please register your dog if you have not done so already for the current year.

All dogs 7 months or older, or having a permanent set of teeth must be licensed.

The state requires that a rabies shot be valid for the first 10 months out of the current year.

If your dog's renewal rabies shot occurs after April 30th, please bring a note from the Veterinarian stating that the pet's shot was not due until this date and the late fee will be waived for medical reasons.

License Fees:

Spayed / Neutered\$10.00
plus \$10 late fee

Non-Spayed /
Non-Neutered..... \$13.00
plus \$10 late fee

In order to wave the

\$10 late fee you must present documentation from your Veterinarian.

Community Day 2011



Another successful community day. People turned out for the rides, entertainment and a fun day outdoors.



The crowd always enjoys watching The Hoh Daiko Drummers at our annual Community Day.

Monthly Water & Sewer Bills Explained

The Township began monthly statements for water and sewer with the June billing. The monthly billing reflects a statement for sewage charges for the current month and your water usage for the previous month.

The Township modified the water rates for the first time since the early 90's. Previously, Love Lane water customers were billed \$25 a quarter for the first 10,000 gallons, with excess usage billed at \$1.25 per thousand gallons. Seabrook Water Company customers were billed \$43.84 a quarter for the first 10,000 gallons, with excess usage billed at \$2.56 per thousand gallons. The new water rates are Township-wide at \$20 per month with an allowance of 6,000 gallons per month (increase of 2,667 gallons per month), with excess usage billed at \$3.25 per thousand gallons. Citizens 65 and older, who register with the Tax Collector, will receive a 10% discount on their monthly base bill, with excess usage charges at \$3.25 per thousand gallons.

Sewer and water payments are due on the last day of the next month (ie. August's bill is due Sept 30th). If the customer's payment is late, interest is charged daily beginning the day after the due date of the utility bill. The sewer rate remained the same, however instead of paying \$90 for three months you are billed \$30 per month.

The increase in water rates is due to the **State mandated improvements** to the water system which cost 7.4 million dollars. The Township has received 2.85 million dollars in grant funding but the balance of 4.55 million dollars will be paid back over the next 40 years through a low interest loan. The state mandated radionuclide handling and monitoring for both water plants added \$202,000 per year to the operating budget. This, plus new loan payments of \$180,000 per year, previous years' operating losses and additional operating expenses for the new treatment plant account for nearly \$500,000 in new costs per year which required the increase in water rates.

Even with these increased costs, water users are paying less than one half of a penny per gallon to have water quality of the highest standards.

Business Summit – Saving Money in a Tight Economy

3

The Township Committee and the Township Economic Development Committee held a business program on May 18th from 6 to 8 pm at the Township Senior Center for local businesses.

The program featured three presentations on smart ways to save money on essential business functions.

- 1 How deregulated electric markets might **save you 5-15%** on your electric costs.
- 2 How alternative phone plans might **save you 10-50%** on your current bills.

3 How the rapidly evolving world of social media might multiply the reach and effectiveness of your current marketing efforts.



Each presentation provided an overview of the changing nature of today's market relative to these key business activities. After each presentation, local business owners shared their experiences to demonstrate that these alternatives can work for you as well.



Chairman of the Economic Development Committee gives an overview of the Business Conference agenda to the attendees.



Township officials visit local businesses to discuss their business operation and see if there are any issues the Township may provide assistance. Pictured are management and sales associates at Pebbles Department Store at the Carlls Corner Shopping Center during a visit from Mayor James Crilley, Administrator Roy Spolfore and CDC Executive Director Tony Stanzone.

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JOIN US FOR MOVIE NIGHT NOVEMBER 7

"Tapped" documents *The bottled water industry's effect on the environment*



Please join the Upper Deerfield Township Environmental Committee for a showing of the movie "Tapped" on Monday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the

Edgar Joyce Senior Center next to the Upper Deerfield Municipal Center on Route 77.

"Tapped" documents how the bottled water industry is wreaking havoc on the environment and examines the role of the bottled water industry and its effects on our health as well as climate change, pollution, and our reliance on oil.

Bottled water doesn't just come from your grocery store. It comes from small towns across America where citizens need the water to support their way of life. When that water supply is claimed by a bottled water corporation, whole ecosystems can be disrupted.

Then when the bottle is empty, what happens to it? Every day Americans dump 30 million single-serve plastic water bottles into landfills. Only 20% of bottled water containers are recycled in the U.S.

Because of America's poor recycling rate, much of our plastic ends up in the Pacific Ocean, specifically in an area known as Plastic Stew. An area twice the size of Texas, this vast polluted sea has a ratio of 46 units of plastic for every single unit of life-supporting plankton.

This disturbing--but inspiring--film, directed and produced by Stephanie Soechtig, highlights how everyday heroes have taken on the fight for our most precious resource – water.

There is no charge for the movie--and the popcorn is free! **Save the date.**

WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 27

Why Our Trees Are Dying

Are your trees showing signs of stress? Dropping leaves? Losing branches?



Come to a workshop sponsored by the Upper Deerfield Township Environmental Commission and learn why our trees are dying. The workshop will be sponsored by the Upper Deerfield Environmental Commission and held at the Edgar Joyce Senior Center next to the Upper Deerfield Municipal Center on Route 77 on Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm.

The speaker will be Richard Buckley, Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station Soil Testing and Plant Diagnostic Services (STPDS) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. He will describe some of the pests and diseases that are currently killing and damaging our trees.

Mr. Buckley holds a BS degree in Entomology and Plant Pathology from the University of Delaware and an MS in Turfgrass Pathology from Rutgers. In addition to his responsibilities as Director of the STPDS, he is an instructor in the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School and lectures and teaches courses in diseases and insect pests affecting turfgrass and ornamental plants.

Articles submitted by the Upper Deerfield Township Environmental Commission

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I Care.



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Hopefully the hot days of summer have subsided, but just incase, please remember that dehydration is your enemy! It can happen quickly and the consequences can be deadly. Even if you are not outside a lot, please drink often.

Our nurse, Karen Elwell, RN will continue to monitor blood pressure, weight, and medication on Tuesdays to our membership. Kim Long is coming back as Outreach services will be at the Center on the second and third Wednesdays of the month from 10:00 am to noon.

Our Fall Session will be full of activities

Starting September 19, 2011, we will have 12 weeks of activities. Not just our regular classes of knitting, crochet, Swedish weave, scrapbooking, jewelry making. Flower arranging, and exercise, but lots of one day activities too. We will be making angels, which is a great gift idea, painting pumpkins, learn how to fold towels into animals, and making note cards, to name some. Don't forget our parties from Halloween to New Years.

Seats are going fast for our American Music Christmas Show Trip, November 4, 2011 and the Kozier's Christmas Village trip on November 18, 2011. These trips are popular and are always sold out. Everyone loves eating at the Shady Maple.

At the Edgar Joyce Senior Center we continue to provide knowledge on a variety of topics. Not only things of interest but topics to help better our quality of life. See our brochure for listings of speakers.

Two notes from Kim.....

1 I would like to take this moment to thank all my volunteers at the Center, without them we wouldn't have so much going on as we do. I'd be lost without each and every one of them. They're the greatest!

2 **Remember . . .** Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to learn to dance in the rain....
ENJOY THE FALL SEASON.



Edgar Joyce Senior Center June Pinochle Tournament Winners:

(sitting left) 3rd runner up Dominick Marabella, (standing) 2nd runner up Duke Garrison and Winner Ervin Booksha.



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Water Conservation Tips

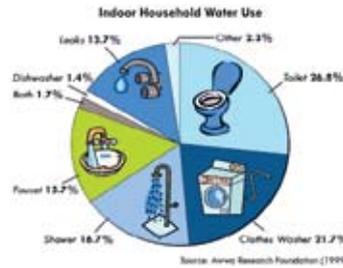
A typical American household can save 50,000-100,000 gallons of water annually by observing a few simple habits/rules:

- **Repair leaky faucets**, indoors and out; just one leaky faucet can waste as much as 4,000 gallons of water per month.
- Install **faucet aerators** to reduce water usage up to 60 percent. Also install a low-flow showerhead and take showers instead of baths. Short showers use one-third the water baths do.
- **Don't let the water run** from the tap in the kitchen or bathroom when you are not using it. Turning off the water when you're brushing your teeth can save 4 gallons each time.
- Select a dishwasher with a "light-wash" option and use it only when fully loaded. When hand-washing dishes, save up to 15 gallons by soaking dirty dishes in the sink instead of letting the water run over them.
- When you shop for a new washing machine, consider a **water-saving, energy-efficient appliance**.
- **Repair leaky toilets** and save another 50 gallons a day; install a tank-dam and save five to seven gallons per flush. The new low-flush toilets save over 7,000 gallons a year.
- When washing your car, **turn the hose off between rinses** to conserve about 150 gallons

per washing or use a car wash that recycles water.

Help to protect our limited fresh water supplies:

- Water your lawn in the early morning hours when evaporation is slower. In most locations, one inch of water per week to your lawn or garden should be enough... Use soaker hoses.
- Plant indigenous species of shrubs accustomed to local water conditions.
- Set your lawn-mower blades at the 2-3 inch level for healthy grass and better water retention.
- Don't **over fertilize** your lawn.
- Consider lower maintenance native species – less water & fertilizers required.
- Think twice before you flush things out of sight or pour it down the drain... They will come back in unwanted ways...
- Don't flush prescription drugs down the toilet
- Dispose of Hazardous chemicals, paints, anti-freeze/coolants properly.



Fall Leaf Collection Schedule

Leaf Collection will begin in late October, check the Township's website for the exact time. Once again there will be two crews with two different collection routes that are followed. Once a route is completed, the crew starts at the beginning of the route again. Please be advised that the primary disposal location for the Township's leaves has temporarily closed which will require the Township to use a facility that will add about 30 minutes more to each disposal run. Please be patient, as the two crews are running their routes throughout the Township's 31 square miles.

Once the leaves start falling, crews may remain in neighborhoods for a greater period of time due to the enormous volume of leaves that have fallen. The leaf collection machines can only hold a certain volume of the leaves which require frequent trips to composting facilities for recycling purposes and with the added disposal time there will be fewer trips per day.

Please look at the Township Website www.upperdeerfield.com to see where the crews are located on their collection routes to see when they might be in your neighborhood. All leaves must be placed at the edge of the road in front of your property. Please make sure that your leaf piles do not have any limbs, trash or debris placed in them. The crews will not pick up your mixed piles as they will damage the leaf collection equipment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Department at 451-9405. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding again this year.



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Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water



A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.



Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.



Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.
- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.
- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law.

And remember to:

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.
- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.



Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.



Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

Contact information

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
(609) 633-7021



April 2004

Cartons And Additional Plastics Now Recyclable

Cartons can now be mixed with bottles and cans for recycling. The material will be sorted at the recycling facility and sent to a mill to be made into recycled paper products and even building materials.

Examples of these containers include shelf stable cartons for juice, milk, soy milk, soup, broth, and wine. In the refrigerated section you can also recycle milk, juice, egg substitute containers. Make sure they are empty, remove any straws, and give them a quick rinse before placing them in your recycling bucket.

Most plastic containers are labeled on the bottom of the container with a single digit inside of a triangle that ranges from one to seven. These numbers let consumers know how to properly recycle or dispose of plastic containers. In the past, only plastic containers with the numbers 1 or 2 were recycled, now plastics with the numbers 4, 5, and 7 can be recycled. There are still two types of plastics, numbers 3 and 6, that cannot be recycled and should be disposed of with your regular trash.

Plastic yogurt containers, margarine tubs, appetizer containers, takeout food containers can now be recycled with your bottles and cans. Please remember to give them a rinse and remove and dispose of all lids.

Business Website Addresses Needed

Upper Deerfield Township is asking local businesses to provide us with your web site address and email address so the Township can keep you informed about information that may be important to your business operation, (new loan programs, state legislation, Township issues) The Township can also provide a link for your business website on the Township's web site. Please email us at info@upperdeerfield.com with your web site name. If you would like your email address included, let us know the appropriate contact information.

You may also provide your website and email addresses quickly and easily online at www.upperdeerfield.com/buscontactform.

Laura A. Hayes

Independent Beauty Consultant

344 Landis Ave.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
phone 856-451-8498
cell 856-305-4305

laurahayes@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/lhayes



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BEVERAGE CARTONS

(EMPTY, RINSE, REMOVE
ANY STRAWS)



MORE PLASTICS

(YOGURT, MARGARINE TUBS, TAKEOUT CONTAINERS)



LOOK FOR THESE NUMBERS ON CONTAINERS

USE YOUR RED RECYCLING BUCKET



TO RECYCLE ALL THE ABOVE AS
WELL AS COMMINGLED:

- METAL • GLASS • PLASTIC
- ALUMINUM CANS
- GLASS BOTTLES
- AEROSOL CANS
- TIN & STEEL CANS
(REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ALL LIDS IN YOUR REGULAR TRASH)

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1
07:00 PM Township
Committee

2

3

MONTHLY PLANNER

Sept. 2011

UPPER DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

4

5

Labor Day
Municipal Building Closed

6
02:00 PM Municipal Court
07:00 PM Recreation
Committee

7
07:00 PM Environmental
Commission

8

9

10

11

12
02:00 PM Municipal Court
07:00 PM Planning Board

13
07:00 PM Historical
Committee

14

15
07:00 PM Township
Committee

16

17

18

19
02:00 PM Municipal Court
07:00 PM Planning Board

20

21

22

23
First Day Of Autumn

24

25

26

27
07:00 PM Economic
Development

28

29

30

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1

MONTHLY PLANNER

Oct. 2011

UPPER DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

2

3
02:00 PM Municipal Court
07:00 PM Recreation
Committee

4

5
07:00 PM Environmental
Commission

6
07:00 PM Township
Committee

7

8

9

10

Columbus Day
Municipal Building Closed

11
02:00 PM Municipal Court
07:00 PM Historical
Committee

12
07:00 PM Planning Board

13

14

15

16

17
02:00 PM Municipal Court
07:00 PM Planning Board

18

19

20
07:00 PM Township
Committee

21

22

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24

25

26

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29

30

31

Halloween

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Tony Sbarra Lu Ann Flacco

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MONTHLY PLANNER

Nov. 2011

UPPER DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																																
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Ten Tips That Can Help Improve The Water Quality Of The Cohansey River

Your everyday activities can affect water quality. Help reduce the amount of pollution that flows into our waterways by following these tips:

- 1. Conserve water.** Do not over-water your lawn. Adjust sprinklers if water runs into the gutter. Water during cooler times of the day.
- 2. Identify pests before spraying pesticides.** Ask a specialist at your garden center for advice on how to treat for that specific pest. Use integrated pest management (IPM) methods to minimize chemical use in your garden. Many IPM methods do not even require the use of chemical pesticides.
- 3. Reduce the amount of grass by planting ground cover.** This reduces the need for fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.
- 4. Use natural pesticides** such as milky spore and nematodes whenever possible. If you must use chemical pesticides, use them sparingly and in targeted areas.
- 5. Have your lawn tested** at the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office to determine if you need to fertilize. If so, use natural and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers and make sure to follow the manufacturer's directions. Never apply to your lawn or garden if the weather calls for rain.

6. Use a mulching mower instead of bagging grass clippings to reduce lawn wastes and to reduce the need for fertilizer. Do not put loose leaves or grass clippings in the street. Use them in a compost pile as a source for enriched soil. If you do need to dispose of leaves or grass clippings, contact your municipality to determine the appropriate method to dispose these wastes.

7. If you must use herbicides, apply them directly to the weeds rather than broadcasting if possible. A healthy lawn will reduce weed growth.

8. Use mulch on flower beds and gardens to prevent weeds from growing and to help absorb water.

9. Use drought-resistant native plants in gardens and beds. These plants require less fertilizer and less water, thereby reducing the amount of potential polluted runoff.

10. Plant shrubs, flowers or ground cover along the street side of your property to help filter pollutants before storm runoff washes them down the storm drain and into the nearest waterway.

-Submitted by the Upper Deerfield Township
Environmental Commission



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Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: The Maintenance and Care of Your Septic System

Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Water Resources & David Berry, Student in Bioresource Engineering

Overview:

Most homes that are not connected to a public sanitation system use onsite wastewater treatment systems, more commonly known as septic systems. New Jersey is home to over 380,000 septic tanks. This means that over 16% of NJ homes use septic systems. Half of these systems are more than 30 years old, which is the typical lifespan of a traditional (i.e., concrete) septic tank. Unfortunately, many homeowners using a septic system do not know what it is or how it should be maintained.

Proper maintenance and regular pumping are vital to avoiding septic system backups and expensive repairs. A failing system is not only unpleasant due to overflow to the ground surface or the plumbing in the home backing-up, but it is a human health risk and a hazard to the environment.

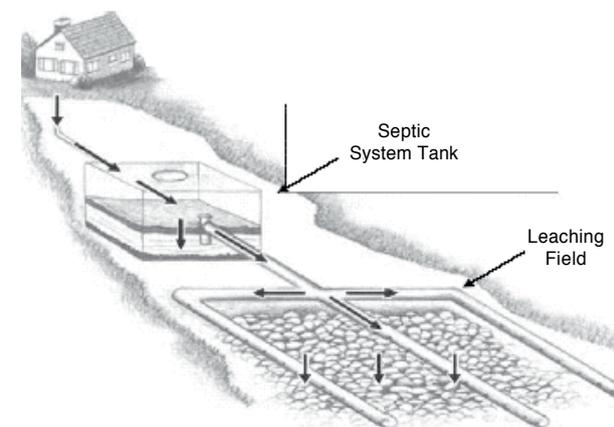


Figure 1: OWTS Schematic (USEPA, 1991)

How it Works:

A conventional onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) consists of a septic tank and a soil absorption field (See Figure 1). The septic tank removes solids, nutrients, pathogens, and floatable grease and scum from the wastewater through physical partitioning and microbial degradation (See Figure 2, top).

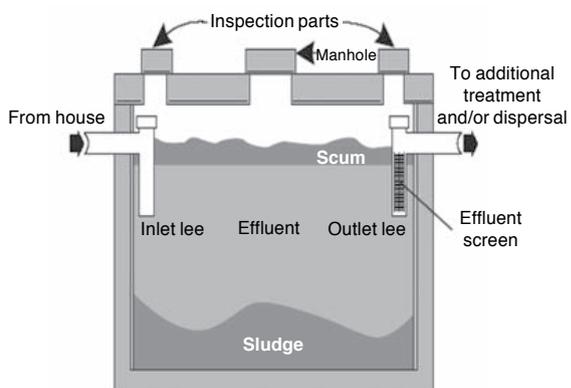


Figure 2: Septic Tank Schematic (NSFC, 2000)

To function properly, the septic tank must receive a consistent flow. The septic tank should be pumped out regularly by a qualified professional to remove excessive amounts of sludge and scum. The frequency of pumping is based on the number of people in the household and the size of the septic tank (See Table 1). The remaining wastewater that leaves the septic tank slowly drains to an absorption field for further purification. A soil absorption field is typically a perforated piping network that lies on a gravel bed (See Figure 3). The seasonal high water table must be at least four feet below the gravel bed to keep the soil from becoming saturated. The soil must remain uncompacted to absorb the wastewater and support the microbial organisms that degrade pollutants. It is important to avoid driving over this area with vehicles or heavy machinery.

If the effluent enters directly into the groundwater without being purified in permeable, aerated soil, it may contaminate both the soil and nearby water-bodies.

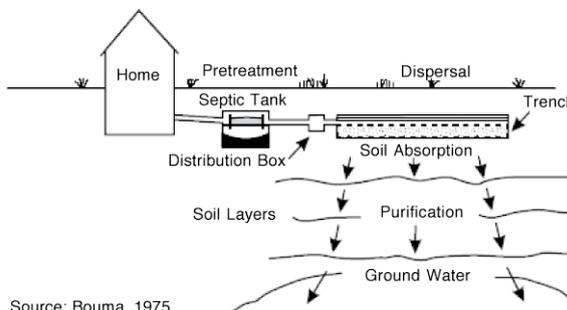


Figure 3: Soil Absorption Field (Bouma et al., 1975)

Caring for your OWTS:

- Know the age, capacity, and location of the septic tank and drainage field.
- Have the system inspected and pumped out by a qualified professional (See Table 1).
- Reduce water use and avoid water intensive activities (e.g. running the dishwasher and washing machine simultaneously).
- Utilize water-saving appliances.
- Do not flush non-degradable items (cigarettes, diapers, paper towels, cat litter).
- Do not pour toxic chemicals including oil-based paints, paint thinner or cleaning products down the drain.
- Avoid using a garbage disposal; grease and solids may quickly clog the septic system.
- Avoid biological septic tank additives; the use of additives containing yeast, bacteria, enzymes, and solvents have not been proven to improve septic system performance.
- Keep the drainfield clear of trees; plant only grass or short-rooted vegetation over and near your septic system.
- Do not drive or park on the drainfield; this will compact the soil, as well as possibly damage the pipes, tank, or other components of the septic system.

Warning Signs of a Failing System:

- The septic tank has not been pumped in the last five years.
- Toilets and drains are backed-up or not flushing well.
- Liquid is ponding over the absorption field.
- Unusually lush green vegetation is noticed over the absorption field. Unpleasant odors occur near field.
- Effluent or wastewater is seeping into the basement.

Continued on page 12

The Maintenance and Care of Your Septic System

(Warning Signs of a Failing System continued)

If improperly maintained, septic systems will eventually clog and stop working. Again, a failing OWTS is a risk to human health and an environmental hazard. The effluent may contaminate drinking water wells and waterbodies with infectious disease-causing organisms and other pollutants. It is imperative that a failing system be repaired as soon as possible to minimize human health risks and degradation of the environment.

Unsuitable Locations for Septic Systems:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that 2/3 of the land in the country is unsuitable for septic systems (USEPA, 2002). Areas with a high water table, shallow bedrock, steep slope, or impermeable clay soils are unacceptable for a septic system. New Jersey has regulations regarding the allowable distance of septic systems from waterbodies, wetlands, potable wells, buildings, and property lines (See Figure 4). In addition, septic systems may not be appropriate if your lot size is small and does not have the proper area for an absorption field. If you are considering installing or replacing an OWTS, contact your local health department for information about siting restrictions in your area.

Mound System:

Mound systems are a common substitute

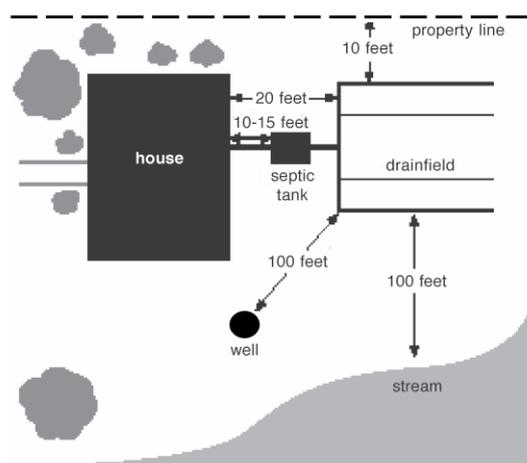


Figure 4: Example of Septic System Placement (distances vary by municipal code) (NESC, 2001)

Table 1: Septic Tank Pumping Schedule (in years) based on Number of Residents and Septic Tank Size (Mancl, 1983)

Tank size (gal)	Household size (number of people):						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
500	5.8	2.6	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3
750	9.1	4.2	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7
900	11.0	5.2	3.3	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.0
1000	12.4	5.9	3.7	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.2
1250	15.6	7.5	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.0	1.7
1500	18.9	9.1	5.9	4.2	3.3	2.6	2.1
1750	22.1	10.7	6.9	5.0	3.9	3.1	2.6
2000	25.4	12.4	8.0	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1

for conventional systems when conventional systems fail because the water table is high or the soil is impermeable. In a mound system, a septic tank first treats the wastewater as in a conventional system.

The liquid then flows into a storage compartment, where it is pumped up to an absorption field within a soil mound a few feet above grade. The mound provides an adequate volume of soil to treat the wastewater that exits the perforated pipe network in the leachfield. Mound systems can be a costly option in areas where the appropriate soil media is expensive. Mounding may also be unsightly when installed in the yard of a house.

Alternatives:

Alternative technologies do exist for sites where conventional systems are not an option or to attain increased pollutant removal efficiencies. These systems are not the solution for all sites. However, in some instances they can make onsite wastewater treatment possible. Aerobic treatment and sand filters are among

the choices to consider for some sites. Other alternatives to improve the life of your system include low-cost filters and baffles.

An effluent filter is a screen that reduces the amount of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in the effluent stream. A reduction in TSS can extend the life of the leachfield, which commonly gets clogged and backed-up due to high solid concentrations. Removal of solids also facilitates treatment of wastewater by reducing the oxygen demand of the effluent. The reduction can keep the system aerobic, enhancing microbial degradation. The effluent filter can be placed in the septic tank near the outflow, or between the septic tank and the leachfield. Effluent filters are an inexpensive upgrade to a septic tank that can be helpful in protecting your septic system.

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