

Richland eyes enhanced stream monitoring

Cliff Lebowitz

Protection of streams in Richland Township from pollution, already an active program geared toward compliance with state and federal regulations, may soon be taken to a higher level.

On July 13, the board of supervisors, during discussion of the annual report on the township stormwater management program, received a request from one of its program partners to meet with Township Manager Stephen Sechrist to develop a new action plan for stream monitoring.

The request was made by

Francine Schmitt, chairperson of the Upper Tohickon Watershed Association (UTWA), which is already active as a partner in the public education and outreach part of the township's stormwater management mandate.

Schmitt particularly mentioned nitrogen levels as one parameter of interest, noting a 2009 report from the state expressing concern about too high levels deriving from clear cutting for development. In elaboration, Judy Goldstein, Township Planner Boucher & James' representative at the meeting, said excessive concentrations of nitrogen compounds could threaten

stream life by depleting oxygen levels. She added water temperature and siltation as key parameters for monitoring, and noted related needs for assuring adequate riparian buffers.

As part of its annual report on the issue, the township noted "stormwater picks up debris and other pollutants, which are carried into municipal storm sewers, which eventually empty into streams." It asks for reporting to the township office or police department of any observation of "dumping into a storm sewer or stream" or of "seeing anything in a stream that should not be there."

The township's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit requires it "to map its stormwater system and to conduct a screening of all the outfalls at least once during the five-year permit period to see if there are any contaminants." That work is to "be conducted by the township's engineering firm, Gilmore & Associates." Among other pollution control activities, the township works "in partnership with the Bucks County Conservation District to control construction site stormwater."

The UTWA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, says it focuses its programs "primarily to residents of our com-

munity, balancing them between children and adults and to a much lesser extent to business owners and developers." A recent speaker program told how a wholesale garden center "recycles rainwater, controls stormwater runoff, and uses state-of-the-art water-saving technology in its greenhouses."

The group notes that the Upper Tohickon Watershed "includes all or a portion of...Richland, Haycock, East Rockhill, Milford, Nockamixon, Springfield, Bedminster, and West Rockhill townships, and Perkasie, Quakertown, Richlandtown, and Trumbauersville boroughs."

Family Service school counseling program receives gift

The Young family recently delivered a \$15,000 gift on behalf of the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund to Family Service Association of Bucks County in support of its School-Based Counseling program.

Family Service has partnerships with 18 schools across eight school districts to provide counseling to children and adolescents directly in the schools they attend each day. The gift from the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund will be used specifically to provide middle and high school students with mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment in an effort to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and prevent possible deaths from occurring.

Drug abuse is a major public health problem that affects communities and families nationwide. A recent national survey on drug use reports that by the 12th grade, about half of adolescents



Heather, Maria, Francis and Fran "Buddy" Young present a \$15,000 gift to Family Service Association.

have abused an illicit drug at least once.

Locally, there were 103 accidental deaths involving drugs and alcohol in 2014 in Bucks

County alone, according to Dr. Joseph P. Campbell, corner of Bucks County.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service

Administration (SAMHSA), one of the key strategies in preventing overdose deaths is to ensure access to treatment for individuals who have a substance use disorder.

Providing in-school counseling and substance abuse treatment eliminates many barriers that can prevent families from accessing these types of services for adolescents. Many families have difficulties attending traditional outpatient clinics due to hectic work schedules or transportation issues.

Because most adolescents spend a significant part of each

day in a school building, Family Service's school-based program provides a convenient option for families, making it easy to access services and treatment. In addition, the school environment is a familiar one for students, and they may be more comfortable receiving counseling and substance abuse treatment in the school setting rather than at an outpatient facility.

For information, visit fsabc.org/school or contact Shana Almeida, clinical supervisor of behavioral health, at 215-757-6916 x111 or salmeida@fsabc.org.

Hunterdon clergy to help at tragic events

Local clergy will assist Hunterdon County law enforcement officials when a tragic event occurs, beginning Aug. 1, by comforting victims and their families while the investigation is being completed.

There will be an on-call list of the volunteer clergy members available to respond, if needed by local police.

The program has been designed to give clergy an opportunity to

accompany police on death notifications but can be expanded as needed. It will provide backup to the Hunterdon Medical Center Chaplain, and resources will be available to police officers and other first responders, if there is a need.

"These professionals are trained in grief counseling and are a resource that we have identified as a positive asset for our local, law-enforcement community,"

said Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III.

The prosecutor's office hosted a symposium on June 2, titled "Utilization of Clergy to Assist Law Enforcement and Emergency Services." A DVD of the training is available to anyone interested in participating in the program.

Clergy interested in participating should contact Lieutenant Joyce Hanshaw at 908-788-1129.

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- Confort Food, Morrisville, PA
- Dina Rata at Andaz Wall Street, New York, NY
- Huntley Tavern, Summit, NJ
- Island Grill, Cape May, NJ
- Jammin Crepes, Princeton, NJ
- Triumph Brewery, Princeton, NJ

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- Agricola, Princeton, NJ
- Blue Bottle Cafe, Hopewell, NJ
- Butt, Philadelphia, PA
- Button's Creperie, Lawrence, NJ
- Medterra, Princeton, NJ
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