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# Over 200 trees planted at Milligan Farm site

*Riparian planting will protect, enhance Sidney Brook ecosystem*

Over 200 young willow, poplar, oak, and dogwood trees were planted at the township-owned Milligan Farm property along the Sidney Brook in Union Township in June. New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Asst. Watershed Protection Specialist Rick Anthes directed the planting project, with help from NJWSA employees and Union Township Environmental Commission volunteers. The trees, along with wire deer-proof caging, were funded through Union Township's ongoing 319(h) Sidney Brook Watershed Protection Plan grant and were planted to improve the riparian buffer, stabilize the stream banks, and shade the water for trout production.

After October's severe storms, including a visit from then-Tropical Storm Irene,



*UTEC's Bill Harclerode and Sandy Stiger worked with Rick Anthes and Kathy Hale of NJWSA and other volunteers.*

volunteers were heartened to find that the plantings had survived intact; only the caging needed slight repairs and to be cleared of debris.

Sidney Brook is a tributary to the South Branch Raritan River with a watershed drainage area of 5.5 square miles that

*(continued on page 8.)*

## PA man invents \$7 DIY Stinkbug trap

Tired of dealing with stink bugs infesting his house, a Shaler, Pennsylvania man came up with an ingenious solution for trapping the pests that's neat, doesn't rely on dangerous chemicals and even better—is cheap.

Using an empty 2-liter soda bottle, electrical tape, masking tape, a razor blade and a cheap LED press-light, Julian Smith assembled the trap for around \$7.

*(continued on page 2.)*

## UTEC gets Social

**Facebook page lets residents learn, link, interact**

Union Township residents can now get quick access to information about the



Environmental Commission, as well as links to environmentally related articles in Hunterdon County, thanks to UTEC's new Facebook page.

The page makes it easy for residents to follow UTEC happenings, rather than having to remember to check the UTEC page on the Township website. It also allows UTEC officials to easily post

alerts on upcoming meetings, make announcements about meeting minutes, public events and other news. Residents can "like" the page and they will automatically see UTEC posts appear on their Facebook wall. They can even comment on posts. The UTEC Facebook page is located at [www.facebook.com/utec](http://www.facebook.com/utec) and is updated regularly.

# ANJEC grant funds township conservation easement project

## ***\$2,500 grant and township volunteers means no cost to residents***

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) awarded the Union Township a grant of \$2,500 that will allow Union Township Environmental Commission (UTEC) volunteers to complete a conservation easement inventory database, and to develop a landowner outreach and monitoring program for conservation easements.

The goal, according to UTEC Chair Chuck La Tournous, is to preserve and protect wildlife habitats and water resources through good stewardship of the over 220 conservation easements that the township currently holds with residential property owners.

Michele McBride, Union Township Committeewoman, started the conservation easement inventory project in 2009 as a UTEC member while completing requirements to become a certified Rutgers Environmental Steward. She was able to develop a database of over 200 conservation easements within the township, utilizing the records available within the township's municipal building. Volunteers from

the Environmental Commission will now be able to complete the deed search at the Hunterdon County Hall of Records and finalize the database for publication on the township's website. A color coded easement parcel map will also be created with the ANJEC grant which will include preserved open space and farmland.

Union Township Mayor Bill Bischoff, who also sits on the township's Planning Board, acknowledges that the property owner education / awareness project being conducted by UTEC is key to maintaining conservation easements and sensitive environmental areas. Conservation easements are legally binding agreements that limit the type and amount of development that can occur on the portion of a property where the easement lies. The specific terms of a conservation easement can vary for each property, but within Union Township they often serve as groundwater recharge areas upon which the township is dependent for drinking water and agricultural production. Conservation easements also help preserve wooded areas, protect stream corridors, provide endangered species habitat, preserve scenic views, absorb stormwater, and help to establish a system of greenways linking preserved open space in the township.

According to McBride, most conservation easements in Union Township are created during the planning process when a large property is subdivided, in an effort to protect sensitive environmental areas, wildlife habitats, and water resources. As properties are bought and sold, the

easement is recorded with the deed and transfers from owner to owner, but can sometimes get 'lost in translation' if a property changes hands frequently.

The conservation easement database and parcel map are expected to be on line next spring. UTEC volunteers will send individualized letters to each of the over 220 easement holders outlining easements which are recorded on their properties. The personalized letter will serve as a 'thank you' to easement holders, and as a reminder of their legal obligations to keep easements in a natural state. UTEC has already begun monitoring key open space parcels on a periodic basis to insure that easement areas remain undisturbed. The group hopes to acquire additional ANJEC grant funds to allow monitoring of all 220 easements in the future.

## **Stinkbug trap**

*(continued from page 1.)*

### **Here's how:**

Cut the top off the bottle at the label; put the press-light, bulb side up in the bottom of the bottle. Invert the bottle top and place it inside the bottle, securing it with electrical tape. Use the masking tape to create "ladders" on the side of the bottle, leading into the funnel. The light attracts the bugs, which fall into the bottle, trapped. More details can be found at <http://bit.ly/stinkbugtrap>

# Where Can I Recycle That? *A guide to recycling resources for Union Township residents.*

Item Description	Recycling Location	Frequency	Comments
Glass Bottles (all colors)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled; plate/window glass is not accepted
Aluminum and Tin Cans	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Plastic Containers (#1-7)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Junk Mail	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Newspapers (Bundled in paper bags or tied)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Cardboard Boxes (Break down or flatten)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
All of the above	Hunterdon County Recycling Depot (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale)	Every six months	Do not commingle. Call 908-236-9088 or check website.
Batteries (AAAA-D cell)	Household Trash (County no longer accepts)		
Anti-freeze (Auto, used)	Patrick's Auto (79 Rt. 173) or County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Asbestos pipe wrap	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	Dampen and double-wrap in plastic
Batteries (Car, mower)	Home Depot or Lowe's		
Cell phones	Shop-Rite (Clinton)		They are recycled for our soliders
Clothing	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.) Norton Church Thrift Shop (908-735-0177) Open Cupboard Food Pantry (908-730-7320)	24/7	Clothing container behind the municipal building benefits Pattenberg Fire Company
Electronics (Computers, monitors, speakers, TVs, DVD players, stereo equipment, home phones, etc.)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	
Eyeglasses	Shop-Rite (Clinton)	24/7	Lions container in front of store
Fluorescent Lights (standard)	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Compact Fluorescent Lights	Home Depot		
Furniture in good condition	Donate to charity: Lord's Closet (908-534-1777) Salvation Army (800-449-9538)		
Grass clippings, tree branches, leaves and other yard waste	Your property		Township does not offer removal of these items; see "Union Township Guide to Leaf and Yard Waste Management" on township website
Herbicides	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Household cleanup items	Union Township Bulk Dumpster (Main St. behind old Municipal Bldg)	1st/3rd Saturdays or until dumpster is full	Must present ID card issued by township. No construction debris. See township website for details
Household items in good condition	Norton Church Thrift Shop (908-735-0177) Open Cupboard Food Pantry (908-730-7320)	Saturday 8-12	Do not leave out front
Household trash and construction debris	Hunterdon County Recycling Depot (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale)	Saturdays 10:30-1	Fee based; call 908-236-9088 or check county website
Metals (Copper, steel, iron aluminum, etc.)	Union Township Bulk Dumpster (Main St. behind old Municipal Bldg) Hunterdon County Recycling Depot (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale)	Township: 1st/3rd Saturdays or until dumpster is full. County: Saturdays 10:30-1	County is fee based; call 908-236-9088 or check county website
Motor oil (used)	Patrick's Auto (79 Rt. 173), Wal-Mart or County Hazardous Waste Day	County: Every six months	See County website for dates
Paint (oil-based)	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Paint (water-based)	Household Trash		Open can, let dry and dispose in trash
Pesticides	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Plastic grocery bags	Shop-Rite (Clinton)		Stuff all bags into one and tie
Prescription drugs	Household Trash		Remove label and place in trash. DO NOT flush
Printer cartridges	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	
Refrigerators and freezers	County Recycling Program		See County website for dates. May get \$\$ back
Tree branches and stumps	Your property		

**Contact Information:**

County Recycling and Transfer Station: 908-236-9088  
 County Recycling and Hazardous Waste Information: 908-788-1110 or  
[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste/cleanup.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste/cleanup.htm)

Union Township website: [www.uniontwp-hcnj.org](http://www.uniontwp-hcnj.org)

Patrick's Auto: 908-713-1388

*This information is provided as a public service of the Union Township Environmental Commission. Contact us at 908-735-8027, x21 or email [utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org)*

# Grants help township go green to save green

## ***Free programs and successful grant applications will save taxpayers thousands annually***

Union Township is working hard to stretch its limited municipal budget in the face of rising energy costs. In 2011, we received three grants to improve energy efficiency at the municipal building and Roads & Facilities garage. Upfront costs often act as roadblocks to energy efficiency upgrades, but by combining federal block grants and state energy incentives, we were able to decrease our electricity costs without spending a dime of municipal tax funds.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities offers towns and schools a free, comprehensive energy audit to evaluate equipment efficiency. Union Township applied for and obtained Local Government Energy Audits of

our municipal building and garage in May, 2011 through local engineering company Steven Winters Associates, Inc. By studying the results of the energy audits, we were able to determine low cost and no cost energy savings measures, in addition to improvements in insulation and ventilation that would extend the life of our buildings.

Next, we utilized the Board of Public Utilities Direct Install initiative, which offered to pay 60% of the costs of energy efficiency equipment upgrades to our buildings. In Union Township's case, we identified \$10,802.14 in energy upgrades, including LED exit signs, compact fluorescent lighting fixtures, and occupancy sensor switches for office and hallway lighting. The Direct Install program paid \$6,481.28 towards the cost of this project.

Finally, we were awarded a federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant of \$4,320.86 towards the remaining cost of the energy upgrades, making Union Township's out of pocket costs \$0.00 for the project. Our energy upgrades were

installed over the summer by Donnelly Energy Solutions of Wayne, NJ and are working well, according to Township Clerk Ella Ruta.

One of the best things about energy efficiency projects is that the savings are immediate. The estimated annual energy savings associated with our energy upgrade project is \$3,618.15, based upon the energy audit study of our recent utility bills. The estimated payback period for the measures was 4.9 months. Considering that our annual utility expense in 2010 was approximately \$13,500.00, we can expect savings from our project of over 25%.

In addition to the three grants, several smaller projects were also completed this year that decrease our energy costs. The municipal building outdoor post lights now feature long lasting, energy saving LED bulbs, thanks to a donation from Union Township consulting firm Barile & Associates, Inc. We are also proud to fly our country's flag through the night thanks to the donation of a solar flag pole light from Frenchtown Eagle Scout Gerhardt Gerckens.



## **This newsletter also comes in green (and blue and red and yellow...)**

Get the Enhanced, Electronic version of this newsletter. It's better for the environment, costs less to produce and has cool features like hyperlinked navigation, full-color photos and more. You'll even get it faster than the paper version. Just send an email to [utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org) with the subject line "eNews" and you're all set!

(And if you're already reading the electronic version, just click this ad to subscribe!)

# Finn Road Park gets new hiking trail

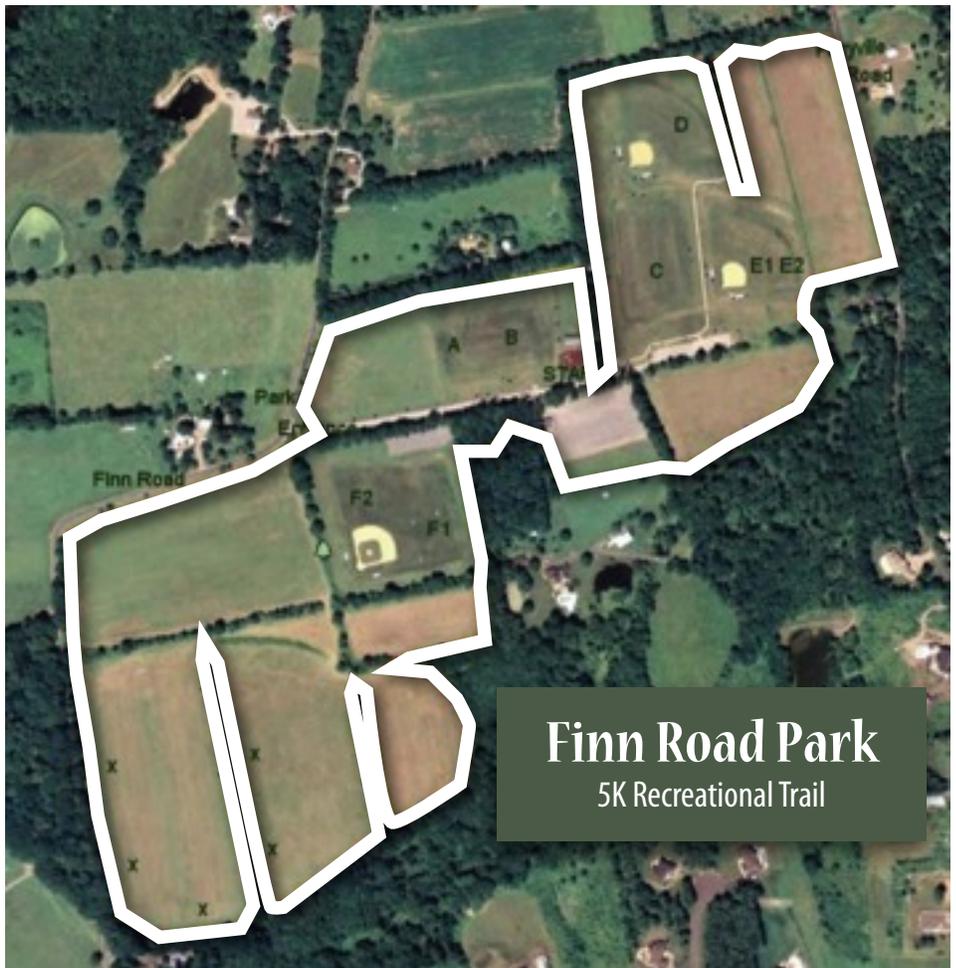
***UTECH teams up with Recreation Commission and Road Crew to create new 5K path***

Finn Road Park now boasts a 5K walking/hiking trail, thanks to the cooperation of Township organizations who worked together to clear, mark and maintain a trail that cuts through and around the park.

Finn Road Park is located on Finn Road approximately 1.5 miles southwest from the Union Township Municipal Building. The park is open 365 days per year, from 9:30 a.m. until dusk, weather permitting. It was purchased with the help of the NJ Green Acres local assistance program.

The 132-acre park currently provides two youth league baseball/softball fields and one full-sized baseball field, as well as three soccer fields, portable bathroom facilities, a playground for young children, snack shack, and picnic pavilion. All playing fields and recreational programs are administered by the Union Township Recreation Committee.

In addition to the new hiking trail, Finn Road Park also includes a half mile walking path. The half mile walking path is groomed and suitable for jogging and strollers. The 5K trail is a moderate hiking trail with irregular terrain utilizing paths through woodlands and mowed farm field perimeters.



# How to make sure environmentally friendly CFLs stay that way



Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) use less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs. In fact, the US Environmental Protection Agency says if every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than three million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

But CFLs contain small amounts of mercury and need to be recycled carefully in order to ensure they don't end up in landfills where they can cause harm to the environment.

The government is working with CFL manufacturers and major retail outlets to expand recycling and disposal options. In the meantime, Home Depot centers will accept used CFLs, regardless of where you bought them.

Learn more about CFLs by downloading this PDF from Energy Star:

[http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change\\_light/downloads/Fact\\_Sheet\\_Mercury.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf)

IF YOU USE TOO MUCH  
FERTILIZER ON YOUR LAWN,  
YOU MIGHT AS WELL  
FERTILIZE THE STREAM.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which flows directly into our streams, lakes, rivers and the ocean.  
So what can you do?



[www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org)

## Want to Help? What would you like to do?

- Hike and study Union Township's streams, forests and grasslands?
- Manage and renovate historic structures?
- Plan new walking/ biking/ riding trails?
- Educate schools and groups on environmental issues?
- Write articles, press releases, meeting minutes?
- Maintain wildlife sanctuaries within the township?

UTEC needs volunteers with diverse skills. If you are interested, contact [UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org). Still on the fence? Come to one of our meetings, regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday each month, to learn more.

# Union Township Directory

Township of Union • 140 Perryville Road • Hampton, NJ 08827

908-735-8027 • 908-735-0591 (Fax) • [www.uniontwp-hc.org](http://www.uniontwp-hc.org)

Animal Registrar	Ella Malecki-Ruta	735-8027, Ext. 10
Auditor	Suplee, Cooneys & Co.	
Attorney	Peter Jost	
Certified Finance Officer	Grace M. Brennan, CFO	Ext. 13
Clerk (Municipal) & Deputy Registrar	Ella Malecki-Ruta	Ext. 10
Construction Official	DCA Office of Local Code Enforcement	713-0722
Dog Warden	Tracy Fleming	328-6788
Emergency Management	Bruce Hirt	735-4854
Emergency Management Assistant	Glenn Roth	735-4667
911 Coordinator	Jeff Polenz	479-6771
Engineer	Robert Clerico, PE	
Environmental Commission Chair	Charles R. La Tournous	Ext. 21
Fire Official	Peter Ball	Ext. 17
Municipal Court Administrator	Lynn Lovenz	735-7855
Municipal Court Judge	Edward R. Martin	735-7855
Planner	Carl E. Hintz, P.P.	
Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Secretary	Grace A. Kocher	Ext. 18
Road Department Foreman	Craig Herman	Ext. 10
Recycling Coordinator	Joe Peake	500-0017
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Ella Malecki-Ruta	Ext. 16
Rescue Squad Captain	John Sadusky	735-9298
Tax Assessor	Robert Vance, CTA	Ext. 14
Tax Collector	John P. Earley, CTC	Ext. 11
Tax Search Officer	John P. Earley, CTC	Ext. 11
Treasurer	John P. Earley, CTC	Ext. 11
Welfare Director	Hunterdon County Division of Social Services 6 Ganutt Place, Flemington, NJ 08822	788-1300
Zoning Official	Richard McManus	Ext. 19
Zoning Official (Deputy)	Orest Walchuck	

## Township Office Hours

Clerk	Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Tax Collector	Monday 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Tax Assessor	Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Zoning Official	Monday & Wednesday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Trash removal in Union Township is by private contract. Recycling is mandatory. The Recycling Depot is behind the Municipal Building and is open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m.-noon except for Holiday weekends. During snow/ice storms, the Recycling Depot will be closed. No leaves/brush can be picked up by the Township; residents are urged to recycle same on their property. No parking on Township roads during snow and/or ice storms. Tree, driveway and lighting ordinances are in effect. Dead deer may be reported to the Township Clerk. Dog and cat licenses are available on the Township website and at the Municipal Building.

## *Sidney Brook Riparian Planting* (continued from page 1.)

spans much of southern Union Township and the northern portion of Franklin Township. The Sidney Brook Watershed Protection Plan has been developed to address vulnerable areas in the watershed and develop a series of recommended actions to maintain the ecological integrity of Sidney Brook. The Plan is funded by a

federal grant for \$237,361 provided by the USEPA under the Clean Water Act 319(h) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Division of Watershed Management. The permanently preserved Milligan Farm property was purchased in 2005 by Union Township with the help of NJDEP Green Acres, New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA), and County of Hunterdon open space funding.

### **About this newsletter...**

Union Township, like all municipalities in New Jersey, is required to provide information to residents on environmental subjects including stormwater management, recycling, and the Sidney Brook 319 grant. This newsletter fulfills that requirement. It was designed and written by township volunteers. If you are interested in advertising in our next newsletter, contact us at [UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org). Residents can receive UTEC newsletters, important township news and other correspondence electronically by email rather than in print through snail mail. To request this service, send an email to [utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org) with UTEC EMAILS as the subject. Be sure to include your full name and address.



### **Find us on Facebook!**

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**UNION TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
140 Perryville Road  
Hampton, NJ 08827

**JOIN US!** *The Union Township Environmental Commission meets in the Municipal Buidling on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM*

