

Opinion

What Do You Think?

The Easton News welcomes letters to the editor. Please limit the length to 200 words and include your name, address and phone number for confirmation only. Please call us at 610-266-7720 with questions.

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The Easton News

IN OUR OPINION

Save a tree

Has the world gone mad? Why does it seem that many townships have become anti-tree. Emmaus is considering chopping down the tree in the Triangle. A number of trees have been leveled by a developer in Forks Township. Hellertown was debating the removal of a tree on Main Street. And for what reason?

Emmaus is looking to remove its tree in favor of more aesthetically pleasing décor for the Triangle. The trees removed in Forks were without permission. And the tree in question in Hellertown was causing an issue with the sidewalk.

Thankfully, Hellertown opted to save the tree. The fate of the Emmaus tree is still under debate, but favoring removal. And Fork is considering how to deal with the developer who removed the trees along Old River Road.

I find it strange that the removal of trees has become so commonplace in a society that seems to want to preserve our wildlife (including foliage). We travel far and wide to enjoy foliage festivals in the fall when the leaves are brilliant shades of red and yellow. Yet, the Townships barely bat an eye when a developer looks to clear an entire forest in favor of housing or a business park.

My parents have to get a permit to plant a tree, but are not required to do anything to cut one down. This seems very backwards to me. I should think that one would be asked to gain a permit to clear the tree, not bring a new one into the community.

Cheers to Hellertown for electing to save a tree. Shame on Emmaus for thinking about leveling an old beauty without the consideration of adding new trees in its absence. And I hope that Forks handles the developer appropriately for destroying multiple trees without even garnering permission from the township.

I don't consider myself a tree-hugger. But, I do love nature and all that it has to offer. I can't, and really don't want to imagine a world without trees. Even if they are damaging sidewalks.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Punish the tree-cutter

I attended the Forks Township Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting on August 16, 2007. The BoS discussed the cutting down of several old trees along Old River Road by developer Gary Strausser.

I learned of this act on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, and I was shocked to hear the news. It is amazing a developer would cut down 100 year old trees on township property without agreement. As the township solicitor reminded the Forks Township Board of Supervisors, the developer did not have the right or permission from the township to remove the trees.

I am urging the Board of Supervisors to take the strongest possible civil and legal action against the developer. This is a critical step in sending a message to all developers that the citizens of Forks Township take our agreements seriously. In return, we expect all developers to honor their agreements.

We can never replace these old beautiful trees, but we can ensure these types of acts do not happen again. The protection of our natural resources is of the utmost importance in protecting our way of life. We owe it to our future generations.

David Billings
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