

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

Report

Fall 2009

2009 FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

East Rockhill Township Public Works Department will begin its annual leaf collection in November. Pickup dates vary by location. Here's the schedule:

- South of Ridge Road: November 2-6
- North of Ridge Road and west of Schoolhouse Road: November 9-13
- North of Ridge Road and east of Schoolhouse Road: November 16 – 20
- The Public Works Department will drive through the township and do a final leaf collection from November 30 to December 4.

Please understand that we set our schedule for a very good reason: the area south of the Ridge Road is generally the less-densely forested section of the township. Because there are not as many leaves to collect, it is the most effective use of our resources to start there. We appreciate your understanding.

Remember, leaves should be raked into neat piles along property road frontage no later than 7 a.m. It is okay to tarp them to prevent wind disturbance. No registration is required.



2010 BUDGET PREPARATION UNDERWAY

The 2010 Draft Budget is in the development and drafting stage. Our schedule calls for a Preliminary Budget Work Session to be held in October and a draft budget to be adopted in November and authorized for advertisement and a 20-day public comment period.

While fourth quarter data is not yet available, projections based on year-to-date performance and fourth quarter 2008 data indicates that we should expect revenues to be 5 percent (approximately \$100,000) lower than 2009 projected revenues; at the same time we're expecting the 2009 revenues to fall short of budgetary projections.

In order to balance the draft-operating budget, every department has been asked to cut or reduce non-essential services and activities and all capital expenditures have been eliminated from the budget unless an alternative funding source such as grant money is available.

A wage freeze for the Township's seven full time and one part-time employee as well as the seasonal park employees is also currently necessary to meet the necessary expenditure reductions.

On the revenue side of the ledger, the Township has expanded its Code Enforcement services into nearby Silverdale and continues to service Perkasio Borough. Additional ideas for increasing general fund revenues are also being explored.

The draft budget will be posted to the website following the authorization to advertise it and the commencement of the public comment period in November.

See Budget Chart on page 2...

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East Rockhill Township • 1622 Ridge Road • Perkasio, PA 18944

This Edition of The East Rockhill Township Report is published by the Board of Supervisors to keep you informed on timely information about the township and your local government.

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TRASH DISTRICT EXPANSION CONSIDERED



Are you aware that Township ordinances require all residences to have a trash and recycling service provider? It's true...service providers must be licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, must provide the Township with a copy of their scheduled collection routes, and report quantities collected of both municipal waste and recycling. Most residents currently contract privately for this service.

Depending on where you live, you may or may not be aware that East Rockhill Township has a Trash District. The district currently includes a portion of The Pines at Pennridge. In this district, the Township seeks competitive, sealed proposals for weekly curbside trash and recycling services. The Township awards a contract to the lowest responsible bidder and locks into pricing for a period of time.

The current contract prohibits the addition of fuel or other surcharges and has provided residents with stabilized pricing during the recent period of fluctuating fuel costs.

The Township is now contemplating enlarging the trash district to include other developed neighborhoods in the Township. If implemented, the anticipated benefits include

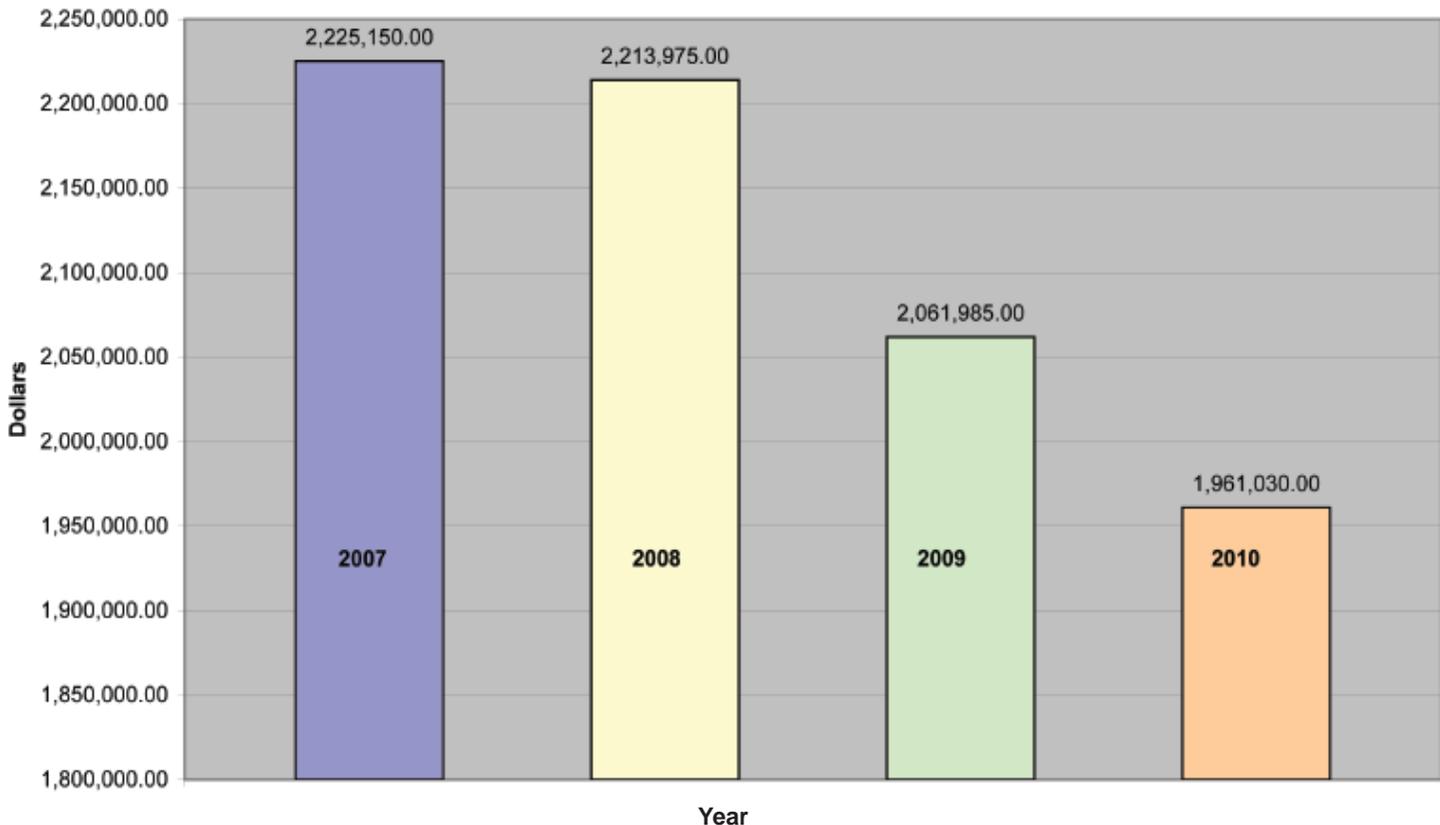
reduced wear and tear on Township roads, reduced consumption of natural resources such as fuel and oil, a uniform day and time for trash and recycling collection, single-stream recycling for everyone, stabilized and competitive pricing without surcharges and improved reporting and compliance from the hauler.

Residents who live in the neighborhoods proposed for inclusion in the Trash District should have received a direct mail notification asking for their public comment, to help the Board evaluate the proposal and gauge public opinion. Information was also sent out in the Township's e-news. You can sign up for the e-news by going to the Township's website (www.eastrockhilltownship.org) and looking for the e-news sign-up link at the bottom of the homepage. Prior issues of e-news are archived under the News page.

Feel free to submit your comments and share your thoughts or concerns by sending them to staff@eastrockhilltownship.org.

2010 BUDGET PREPARATION UNDERWAY *continued from cover..*

**General Fund Budgeted Revenues
2007-2010**



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Natural Christmas Trees

- Before buying a tree, test for freshness by tapping the base of the tree on the ground or pulling lightly on a limb. If many needles fall off or needles can be easily pulled off, the tree is too dry.
- Keep your tree as fresh as possible by placing the stump of the tree in a bucket of water outdoors until you are ready to decorate. Before setting up the tree inside the house, trim two inches off the stem diagonally so it can absorb water. Mount the tree securely in a large, wide based reservoir stand and add water each day to ensure the tree is well watered.
- Choose a suitable location for your tree, ensuring that it is well away from heating sources and clear of all exits.

Artificial Trees

Though fireproof, metal or aluminum trees are electrically conductive and cannot be decorated with any electrical product. The metal can cause a short and a fire, or simply become "hot" or deliver a nasty shock. Aluminum trees can be illuminated by a colorful spotlight placed a safe distance from the tree, as set out in the manufacturer's instructions.



Decorations and Presents

Christmas wrapping and decorations can be highly combustible, and should be kept away from heat sources such as candles, lamps, heaters, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. Gift wrap and boxes should be collected as soon as gifts are opened, and discarded with the garbage or recycled where appropriate.

Indoor Lights and Electrical Decorations

- Use only lights that have been tested and labeled by an approved testing laboratory.
- Examine light strings, cords, plugs and receptacles before using. Discard any that have frayed cords, cracks in the lamp-holders, or loose connections.
- Do not overload electrical circuits or extension cords, and follow instructions about connecting light strings to extension cords.

- Never place furniture or other objects over electrical cords; never run electrical cords under a rug. With a rug covering a cord, any damage the cord may sustain can go unnoticed.
- Always unplug the light string before attempting to replace a bulb. Ensure the voltage and/or wattage marked on the light set is compatible with the replacement bulb. This is especially important with mini-lights as they come in different voltages.
- Avoid using timers on indoor lights. Tree lights could turn on when no one is at home and create a potential fire hazard. Always turn Christmas lights off before leaving home or going to sleep.



Holiday Parties

- Decorate with flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Have large, fireproof, non-tip ashtrays available for guests who smoke. Empty ashtrays regularly into a metal container; after the party, check inside and under upholstery and trashcans for misplaced cigarette butts that may be smoldering.

Outdoor Lighting

- Use only lights that have been tested and labeled by an approved testing laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
- Turn off the electricity to the supply outlet before working on outdoor wiring.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground and clear of metal objects. Use insulated tape, not metal nails or tacks, to hold strings of outdoor lights in place. Be careful not to tape the cords either over, under, or along metal eaves troughs.
- Run cords above ground, keeping them out of puddles and snow.
- Tape all plug connections with plastic electrical tape to make them as watertight as possible. To prevent moisture from entering bulb sockets, bulbs should face the ground.

Sign-Up For Our eNews

Printed Newsletter Frequency to be Reduced

The township's primary revenue sources have been severely reduced due to the national economic recession, forcing us to reduce or eliminate all non-essential expenditures. In 2010, the township will reduce the number of printed newsletters to two issues to save on postage and distribution expenses. A Spring/Summer issue and a Fall/Winter issue will be mailed to all residents.

For more current news, please encourage your friends and neighbors to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. Delivered once a month to your inbox, our e-newsletter contains the most up-to-date information about township issues and community events. Just go the township home page (www.eastorkckhilltownship.org) and click in the button to register.



- When using spotlights or floodlights to light your home or trees, ensure they are marked for outdoor use to withstand snow and rain. Indoor floodlights should never be used outdoors.

Candles

Never use lit candles as decorations on Christmas trees. Place candles in non-tip candle holders and ensure they are well away from Christmas tree or other combustible materials. Never leave lit candles unattended and ensure that they are always out of reach of the children. Matches and lighters are tools not toys! Store them up high where children can't reach them.

Fireplaces

Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and have it cleaned if necessary. Always use a fire screen, and burn only material appropriate for fireplaces. Burn only wood - never burn paper or pine boughs in a fireplace as the burning particles can float up your chimney and onto your roof or into your yard. Never use flammable liquids in a fireplace. Because ashes may rekindle, never store them in your home. Always remove ashes from your fireplace in a metal container.

Fire Safety in the Kitchen

Always practice fire safety in the kitchen but especially during the festive season. Don't leave cooking food unattended - oil or fat can ignite. If you are faced with a grease fire, remember, put a lid on it and turn the heat source off! Always turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking, to avoid pots being pulled or knocked off.



12 Tips for Christmas

- Make sure your home is equipped with at least one working smoke detector on each level of your home. Have your family implement and practice an emergency home fire escape plan.
- Ensure that your home heating appliances (furnace, gas fireplaces, wood burning appliances, chimneys) are all in good clean, working condition.
- Carbon monoxide is a silent and deadly killer; know how to identify the symptoms of carbon dioxide poisoning and install a CO detector in your home.
- With the joyous season upon us again, use sound judgment when installing your Christmas lights. Make sure you are using UL or CSA approved units only, do not overload circuits, and make sure all cords and outlets are in good condition.
- When choosing your fresh Christmas tree, ensure that it does not have any loose needles or brown spots. Keep it as fresh as possible by re-cutting the base at an angle before placing it in the stand. Check the water level daily to ensure that it is well

watered. Fresh trees are highly combustible especially when they are dry so keep it away from any open flame or heat sources. If you use an artificial tree, ensure that it has had a flame-retardant treatment.

- Gift wrapping paper and Christmas gift boxes are highly combustible. Make sure all such materials are at least three (3) feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles, portable heaters, lamps, and all wood burning appliances. Wrapping paper is highly flammable and burns at extremely high temperatures because of the additives in the paper. All wrapping papers and boxes should be discarded in the garbage or recycled. Do not burn in the fireplace or wood-heating appliance.
- Use candles with extreme care; never leave lighted candles unattended especially with children around. Place candles in non-tip and noncombustible holders and ensure they are well away from the Christmas tree, Christmas decorations or other combustible materials.
- When cooking for the holiday season, practice kitchen fire safety with your family. Do not leave cooking food unattended especially when cooking with oil or fat. If grease or oil ignites, remember to cover the container with a lid and turn the heat source off. You should have an ABC fire extinguisher available in your home.
- Careless smoking remains a serious holiday fire hazard. Ensure that all cigarettes and matches are completely extinguished before discarding. Place all butts and matches in a metal container or dampen with water before discarding. Before going to sleep, check all furniture and garbage for smoldering embers.
- Outdoor Christmas lights are exactly that: for outdoors use only. Do not use them in your residence, especially on your tree or near any combustible materials. These lights generate too much heat for indoor use.
- Prior to going out or going to sleep, make sure that you shut off all indoor electrical decorations. This will minimize the potential for fire to occur.

Please be careful and observe these simple fire safety rules. Enjoy a happy holiday season!

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WINTER WEATHER GUIDLINES

Street parking is prohibited during snow removal. It is unlawful to park, abandon, or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway, or adjacent right of way, during a storm or during the 48-hour period following cessation of precipitation or any other period when snow removal or plowing is being conducted. Winter storm definition: any precipitation accumulation to a depth of one-inch or more.

Abandoned vehicles. Any vehicle parked or left unattended on any public street, road, or highway, or its adjacent right of way during the 48-hour period following a winter storm shall be deemed abandoned, and any township police officer or road worker may arrange for the vehicle to be towed and stored at an approved storage lot. In addition to the fine (see penalties), the owner of the vehicle will be responsible for the towing and storage charges.

Responsibility for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 12 hours after snow has stopped falling.

Fire hydrants. Every person in charge or control of any building or lot on which a fire hydrant is located is required

to uncover the fire hydrant to the extent that at least one half of the hydrant is visible from the street.



Depositing of snow and ice prohibited. No person shall deposit any snow or ice next to a fire hydrant or on any sidewalk or roadway.

Penalties. Any person who shall violate any provisions of the snow removal ordinance could be fined up to \$300 for each day the violation continues.

Obstructing of sidewalk, street or highway is prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to park, or place and allow to remain, any object (basketball goal) other than a motor vehicle in the street or highway from November 1 of each year through April 1 of the following year. The Township has the authority to remove and impound any non-motorized object or vehicle found in the street or highway or on the sidewalk. In order to reclaim an object removed, the owner shall pay removal and storage costs.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- * Always wear your seat belt, drive at a reduced speed, and always drive defensively.
- * Always turn on your headlights during inclement weather.
- * Give yourself plenty of time to get to where you're going during the winter.
- * Keep your gas tank full.
- * Maintain at least twice the normal following distance when driving on snow or ice.
- * Rear-end collisions account for most winter crashes.
- * Periodically check the level of your windshield washing fluid and only use fluids containing an anti-freeze solvent. Keep an extra container of windshield fluid in the trunk.
- * Clear snow and ice from your windows, mirrors, hood, headlights, taillights, and trunk before driving.
- * Keep the following items in your vehicle during the winter: an ice scraper/snow brush, de-icer, small snow shovel, warning devices (flares or triangles), bag of salt or sand, flashlight, battery cables, tire chains, paper towels, and a blanket.
- * Maintain a distance of at least six car lengths behind a snow plow.
- * Do not pass a snow plow because the plow blades are wider than the truck.
- * Car pool or use mass transit whenever possible during the winter. Fewer cars on the road make travel safer during a snowstorm and expedite snow plowing operations.
- * Use extra care when driving on a bridge or elevated ramp during the winter because they freeze before roads do.

DRIVING RANGE TOKENS MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Golfers life will love to get a nice supply of tokens for use at our driving range as a Christmas gift. Tokens are \$5 each or 7 for \$33. Senior citizens can purchase token for \$4.50 apiece.

Our driving range features eight tees and a sand trap. The range is open from dawn to dusk and will close for the winter after Thanksgiving.

You can purchase tokens from a self-service dispenser at the range. Discount and senior rates are only available at the township office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



SNOW SHOVELING TIPS

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway or sidewalk only to have it plowed in?

Public Works suggests that you wait until the street is cleared before you shovel the last five feet of your driveway or your sidewalk. Always clear an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below) to give the snow on the blade of the plow a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. This way you won't have to do the same job twice.



Public Works also reminds you that it is illegal to push snow from a parking lot or driveway onto a township roadway.

WINTERIZING YOUR MAILBOX

Public Works and the U.S. Postal Service are both expected to deliver during the winter season... come rain, sleet, snow, or all of the above. The location of your mailbox along the roadway can affect the efficiency of both mail service and snow plowing operations.

Where is your mailbox located? Your letter carrier will make every effort to deliver the mail. However, if the mailbox is not accessible due to snow buildup, or if it is not properly located along the road, you may have to pick up your mail at the post office.

East Rockhill Township allows property owners to place mailboxes within the township legal right-of-way, out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery; however, mailbox damage is the responsibility of the property owner.

Normally, if a mailbox is placed as far from the shoulder of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle and the mailbox rests on a firm support, the mailbox should be able to withstand the force of snow from the plowing operation.



Be sure your mailbox has a strong support. You also may wish to use reflective tape or other material to make the mailbox easier to see during storms or during dark hours.

Plowing operations can push snow against or in front of mailboxes, limiting access and perhaps causing damage to supports. If the mailbox support is within the highway right-of-way, it's the owner's responsibility.

Check your mailbox and support often, clearing snow from it and depositing the snow properly (never shovel snow onto the road). Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and have still experienced mailbox damage may wish to consider installing a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing a mailbox out of harm's way.

If you have questions as to the proper location of your mailbox along the roadway, contact your local post office.

PennDOT urges your cooperation in winterizing your mailbox for the winter season. Taking steps to ensure the visibility and stability of your mailbox will help PennDOT and letter carriers deliver their best this winter.

HUNTING SEASON Q & A

Hunting season is here and our phones have been busy as we answer questions from non-hunters wondering if what they see or hear is permissible. Here are the answers to a few of the most frequently asked questions.

How close to my home can hunters discharge a firearm?

A 150-yard (450 ft) safety zone surrounds all buildings, parking lots, and picnic areas.

Is hunting allowed on township-owned lands?

Ordinance No. 151 prohibits hunting and the discharge of firearms in township parks and in preserved township-owned open space.

Is hunting permitted on Sundays?

No. State law makes hunting on Sundays unlawful except on state-regulated game lands.

Who can I call for more information?

For more information, call the Southeast Regional office of the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 610-926-3136.



MAKE YOUR HOME THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

A homeowner's guide to healthy habits for clean water

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants such as pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!



Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local streams and lakes. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.



Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints.
- Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.



For more information, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

DID YOU KNOW? The U.S. Census Will Happen Next Year

The United States Constitution requires a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. Your participation in the census is required by law.

Starting in February 2010, census questionnaires will be mailed or hand-delivered to every residence in the country. The forms should take less than 10 minutes to complete; federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.

Data collected by the census is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.



Here are key dates in the 2010 Census Timeline:

- Fall 2008: Recruitment began for local census jobs for early census operations.
- Spring 2009: Census employees going door-to-door to update address list nationwide.
- Fall 2009: Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.

- February – March 2010: Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
- April 1, 2010: Census Day
- April – July 2010: Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
- December 2010: By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
- March 2011: By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information, visit www.census.gov.

U.S. Census Bureau
Philadelphia Regional Office
833 Chestnut Street, Suite 504, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 717-1800 or 1-800-262-4236
FAX: (215) 717-0755
TDD: (215) 717-0894
E-mail: Philadelphia.Regional.Office@census.gov

East Rockhill Township *Contact Information*

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasia, PA 18944

Telephone: 215-257-9156 • Fax: 215-257-1299 • www.eastrockhilltownship.org

Board of Supervisors:

David R. Nyman, Chairman
John R. Cressman, Vice-Chair
Gary W. Volovnik, Member

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors: Work Sessions are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Work Sessions are the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board: meetings are scheduled as needed

UCC Joint Appeal Board: Second Wednesday of month as needed at 7 p.m.

Recreation Committee: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Administrative Staff:

Township Manager: Anne W. Klepfer
Zoning Officer: Anne W. Klepfer
Township Secretary/Treasurer:

Anne W. Klepfer

Administrative Assistant/Sewer:

Marianne K. Morano

Building Inspector & Asst. Zoning

Officer: Michael Gardner

Public Works Director:

Steven D. Funk

Bookkeeper: Kim Mauer

Email Addresses:

staff@eastrockhilltownship.org
inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org
works@eastrockhilltownship.org
manager@eastrockhilltownship.org

Pennridge Regional Police Department:

1027 Ridge Road
Sellersville, PA 18960
Non Emergency Telephone:
215-257-5104

Emergency Telephone: 911

Tax Collector: Kathleen Percetti;

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 68, Perkasia, PA 18944
Telephone: 215-453-8866
Office hours: Wednesday,
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

(Except: Nov., Dec., Jan. & Feb. by appointment only)

Office Address: 2037 Hill Road,
Sellersville, PA 18960

Office Hours & Phone Numbers

Administrative Office:

Monday through Friday from
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
215-257-9156

Road and Public Services:

Monday through Friday from
7:00 am to 3:00 pm
215-257-9156

Building and Zoning:

Monday through Friday from 8:00
am to 4:00 pm 215-257-9156

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Police Non-Emergency:
215-257-5104

Fire Emergency: 911

Tax Collector: 215-453-8866

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