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Perkasie, PA 18944



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# EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP Report

Fall/Winter 2011

## 2011 FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Our Public Works crews will begin collecting leaves this month. This year, the Township is going to conduct roadside leaf collection north of Ridge Road first, followed by streets and neighborhoods south of and including Ridge Road.

Leaves should be raked into neat piles along the road frontage no later than 7 a.m. the first day of your areas collection date. It is okay to tarp them to prevent wind disturbance. No registration is required. Remember, fall collection is for leaves only.

Please check the website for details and updates. The Township reserves the right to change the schedule as conditions warrant.

Our tentative schedule is:

- North of Ridge Road and east of Schoolhouse Road:**  
Week of November 7-10
- North of Ridge Road and west of Schoolhouse Road:**  
Week of November 14-18
- South of Ridge Road:** Weeks of November 21-23 and 28-30

Please check the township website ([eastrockhilltownship.org](http://eastrockhilltownship.org)) for updates.

### Thank You To The Businesses

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### Reminder: Outdoor Burning is Not Permitted

No outdoor burning is permitted in East Rockhill Township by Ordinance No. 239. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection prohibits burning of recyclable material such as



yard waste for all mandated communities. East Rockhill Township is also mandated to have an enforcement program in place.

### Township Trash and Recycling News

Great news! The Township sought competitive bids for a new contract for trash and recycling services for residents who live in the Trash District. At the same time, the Township asked bidders to bid on an option to offer the same services to residents outside the Trash District who voluntarily choose to receive the same service as provided inside the Trash District.



Not only are monthly fees for these services reduced from what residents in the Trash District are currently paying, but the successful bidder is offering the same reduced price to residents outside the district. The only requirement is that residents outside of the trash district must commit to a three-year contract and are subject to the same guidelines.

The service includes a choice of unlimited, weekly trash, single-stream recycling and yard waste collection, or a pay-per-bag trash option with unlimited recycling and yard waste.

The cost of the service for 2012 is \$20.10 per month or \$18.50 per month plus \$0.25 per bag. The current monthly charge is \$29.76 per month and does not include yard waste collection.

The bid tabulations are available for review. A notice will be mailed to residents in the Trash District with more detailed information about the changes in the program. The Township website will be updated for residents outside the trash district who are interested in signing up for the service.

A future issue of e-news will contain more details as we near implementation in January.

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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.

Visit us on the web at: [www.EastRockhillTownship.org](http://www.EastRockhillTownship.org)



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## 12 TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS

- 1 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.
- 2 Ensure that your home heating appliances (furnace, gas fireplaces, wood burning appliances, chimneys) are all in good clean, working condition.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 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.
- 11 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.
- 12 *Please be careful and observe these simple fire safety rules. Enjoy a happy holiday season!*



## East Rockhill Township Contact Information

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasio, PA 18944

Telephone: 215-257-9156 • Fax: 215-257-1299 • [www.eastrockhilltownship.org](http://www.eastrockhilltownship.org)

### Board of Supervisors:

John R. Cressman, Chair  
Gary W. Volovnik, Vice-Chair  
Jim C. Nietupski, 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:

4th Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., as needed

### Administrative Staff:

**Township Manager:** Anne W. Klepfer

**Township Secretary/Treasurer:**

Anne W. Klepfer

**Assistant to the Manager:**

Marianne K. Morano

**Building Inspector & Zoning Officer:**

Michael Gardner

**Public Works Director:** Jeff Scholl

### Email Addresses:

[staff@astrockhilltownship.org](mailto:staff@astrockhilltownship.org)

[inspector@astrockhilltownship.org](mailto:inspector@astrockhilltownship.org)

[works@astrockhilltownship.org](mailto:works@astrockhilltownship.org)

[manager@astrockhilltownship.org](mailto:manager@astrockhilltownship.org)

### Pennridge Regional Police Department:

200 Ridge Road

Sellersville, PA 18960

Non Emergency Telephone: 215-257-5104

Emergency Telephone: 911

### Tax Collector: Kathleen Percetti;

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 68, Perkasio, PA 18944

Telephone: 215-453-8866

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

**Police Emergency: 24 Hours – 911**

**Police Non-Emergency: 215-257-5104**

**Fire Emergency: 911**

**Tax Collector: 215-453-8866**

## Yard Waste Dumpster at Recycling Center

A yard waste collection Dumpster for leaves and other yard waste is available for resident use from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays. This Dumpster is behind the Township municipal building on Ridge Road.



Please note: tree limbs or tree stumps larger than 4 inches in circumference and grass clippings are not accepted, and result in penalty assessments. It is also illegal for commercial businesses to dump yard waste and recycling at the Recycling Center, which is strictly for residents.

## 2012 BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

The Board of Supervisors conducted budget work sessions in September and October for the purpose of reviewing the draft 2012 Budget prepared by the Township Manager.

A final review of the budget at the November 8 Work Session will provide the Township Manager with direction for the final tweaks prior to advertising the Draft 2012 Budget for public review. Authorization to advertise is scheduled for November 15, 2011 at the Board's Regular Meeting.

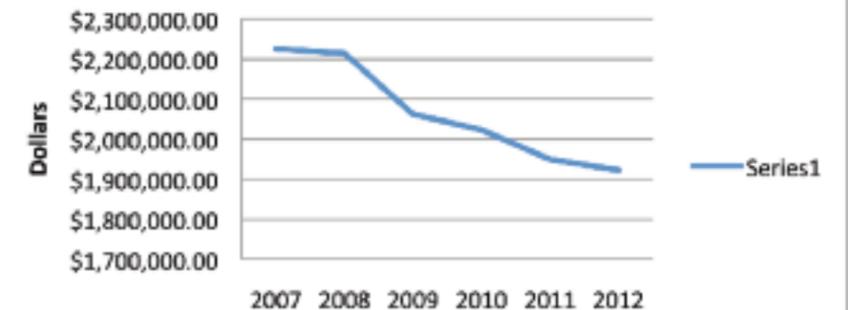
During the Public Review Period between November 15 and December 13, the draft budget will be available for review at [www.eastrockhilltownship.org](http://www.eastrockhilltownship.org). Residents are encouraged to examine the budget and provide feedback or commentary. The budget then will be considered for adoption at the December 13, 2011 Work Session.

Continuing a trend that started in 2008, the draft General Fund Balancing Figure is reduced from the prior year. Since 2007, the General Fund budget has shrunk by as much as 15 percent (approximately \$300,000).

Declining revenues fuels this trend; extreme cuts in expenditures have been made to match the dwindling resources. The Township continues to explore new revenues and additional ways to economize services provided.

More details will be posted online following the November 15, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

### General Fund Decline



## Respect Our Open Space

A township resident recently alerted the Board of Supervisors about the unauthorized encroachment on public open space by some residents who have placed privately owned or funded sheds, playground equipment, gardens, and landscaping and similar items in Township Open Space.

Please be advised that the Township does not permit the placement of private property in Township Open Space. This is of particular concern because it may create boundary confusion and delays when homes are sold. The Township requires all homes

being sold to be inspected for compliance with Township regulations. Use and Occupancy permits that are required for settlement may be held up if unauthorized encroachments are evident.

If your property abuts open space, please observe the property boundaries and respect public open space that is intended to benefit the entire neighborhood and not just individual homeowners.

## Township Seeking Funds for Rockhill Road Bridge

Members of the Board of Supervisors hope state funding will pay for most of the work if a proposal to replace the aging double-arch stone bridge that crosses Three Mile Run on Rockhill Road comes to fruition.

But even if that happens, the township expects to initially have to foot the bill, and then get reimbursed 80% the cost of redesigning and reconstructing the 45-foot long bridge, which has been assigned Priority 1 (most urgent) status by the Department of Transportation.

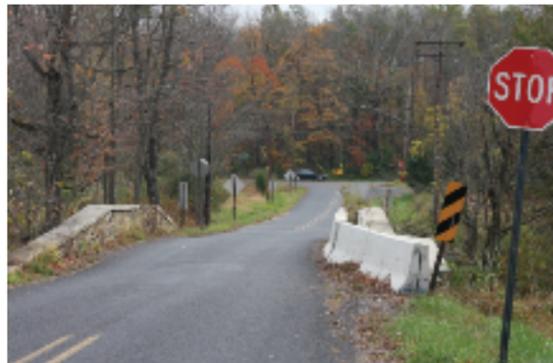
That means the township should both start looking for a source to borrow about \$800,000 and work on getting the support of Bucks County officials who could help convince the state the township should get the reimbursement.

There is state funding for bridge work and some will be allocated to each of the counties, said Township Manager Anne Klepfer.

The township doesn't currently have the money to pay for the work, but repairs will have to be made at some point, board member Jim Nietupski said.

"It has to be done," Nietupski said. "The longer you wait, the worse it's going to get."

While it does not carry a large volume of traffic, the bridge is an important means of access for residents who live nearby. The one-lane bridge, built in 1901 and rehabbed in 1988, has already been narrowed and stop signs placed at each end.



## PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Pennridge Community Senior Center in Silverdale has entertaining events planned for 2011! You can participate in any of the activities, regardless of age. All residents 55 years and older are invited to join the Center.

### DINNER DANCES

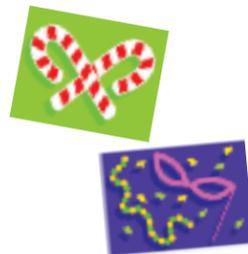
Your Senior Center has many activities scheduled for the fall of 2011.

#### THE FALL DINNER DANCE SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

November 11: Harvest Dinner Dance with the Blue Notes

December 9: Holiday Dinner Dance with the Blue Notes

December 31: New Year's Eve Party with the Blue Notes



You do not need to be a member to attend. Singles and couples are welcome -- all dancers are welcome and there is no age requirement to attend. Tickets are available at the Center for \$18 for the Dinner Dance and \$10 for the Dance only. Reservations are required for the Dinner Dances so that we can order the food. The price for New Year's Eve Party will be established shortly. Please call the Pennridge Regional Senior Center for more information at 215-453-7027.

*Day programs and activities at the Senior Center include aerobic classes, art classes, belly dancing classes, billiards, bingo, blood pressure screenings, bridge club, ceramic classes, chair massage, chess club, choral group, haircuts, card games, line dancing, Mahjong, Pinochle, Tai Chi classes, Zumba classes, reading, writing and research class, and word games. Call the Center for times and dates -- 215-453-7027.*

See you at the Pennridge Community Senior Center in Silverdale!

## 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.
- ◆ 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

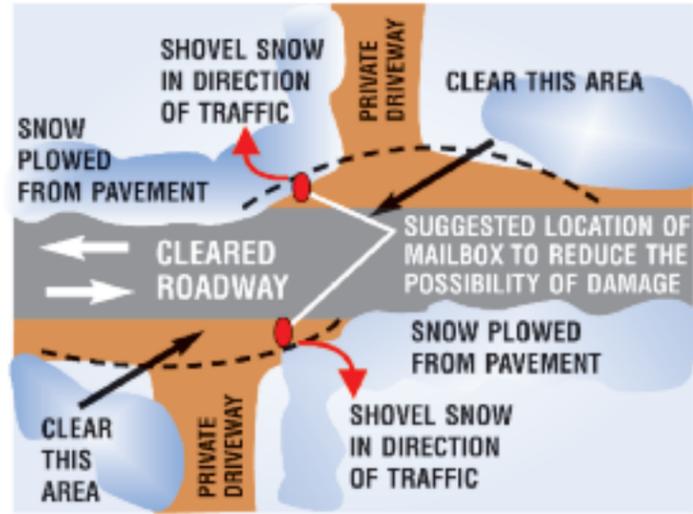
Always practice fire safety in the kitchen but especially during the festive season. Don't leave cooking food unattended - oil or fat can ignite. If you are faced with a grease fire, remember, put a lid on it and turn the heat source off! Always turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking,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

## 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.

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

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## SUPERVISORS APPROVE SELECT PROPERTIES PLAN, WITH CONDITIONS, DEVELOPER APPEALING

After several lengthy hearings on a Conditional Use Application, the Board of Supervisors has approved Select Properties' plan to develop nearly 66 areas between Old Bethlehem Pike and Hill Road near Three Mile Run Road.

In granting the approval, however, the board imposed a series of 30 conditions designed to reduce the impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

The developer proposed building 107 townhouses and 83 single-family houses, retaining two existing single-family homes, and replacing an existing single-family home with the new one.

One of the conditions included in the approval calls for 55 percent of the homes in the development must be of a single-family design. That would essentially reverse the numbers to include 107 new single-family homes and 83 townhouses.

A copy of the conditions included in the 11 page decision, unanimously approved July 28 by the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors, is posted on the township's website, [www.eastrockhilltownship.org](http://www.eastrockhilltownship.org).

That decision only allows the use and is not a final approval, said Township Solicitor John Rice. The company will next have

to submit more detailed engineering plans that will go through an extensive land development review, he said.

Another condition imposed by the supervisors calls for road improvements and widening on Old Bethlehem Pike and Hill Road, with a turning lane added on Old Bethlehem Pike at the main entrance, which will be opposite Tabor Road in West Rockhill Township. There will be no through-roads in the development, and the two entrances from Hill Road will be for emergency use only.

The homes will be hooked up to public water and sewer systems. One of the conditions also requires that connections be installed by the development for abutting properties to hook up to the public sewer.

Other conditions include a 75-foot riparian buffer on either side of a stream on the property that drains into Three Mile Run; adding sidewalks on Old Bethlehem Pike and a pedestrian bridge across Three Mile Run; building a trail open to the public adjacent to Three Mile Run; installing sheltered bus stops; and providing storage areas for snow plowed from the development's streets.

Select Properties has appealed the decision and the appeal is pending.

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE PERKASIE FIRE COMPANY

With its substation in the Township, the Perkasie Fire Company provides valuable, life-saving services to our residents. Here are a few ways you can help support their efforts:

November 26, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.: Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive

Do you have any old household appliances or other scrap metal lying around? Sure you do, don't we all? The Perkasie Fire Company will be accepting these items for free and recycling them in an environmentally friendly way.

The collection site is at Schoeller's Inc., 419 S. 5th Street in Perkasie (across from Menlo Park).

Appliances with refrigerants (refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.) will be accepted for a small

donation of \$30 to properly remove the potentially harmful chemical.

December 18, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Breakfast With Santa  
Our popular "All-You-Can-Eat-Breakfast in December will include a special visit from Santa Claus. The menu includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, scrapple, home fries, onions and mushrooms. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 4-12. Kids 3 and under eat for free.

More information about the Perkasie Fire Company (link: [www.perkasiefd.org](http://www.perkasiefd.org))

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- 1 "SUPER" Self Serve Bay
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215-257-6420 [www.rockhillcarwash.com](http://www.rockhillcarwash.com)  
1112 Old Bethlehem Pike Sellersville, PA 18960

## Business Owners – Are Prepared for Tax Collection Changes?

As 2011 comes to a close, business owners should be aware of looming changes to the way they pay local taxes.

Starting on January 1, 2012, Keystone Tax Collection Group will be responsible for collecting the Earned Income and the Local Services taxes on behalf of East Rockhill Township. This is in accordance with Act 32 of 2008 created by the Bucks County Tax Collection District and the Bucks County Tax Collection Committee.

This fall, employers should take action to prepare for the change and avoid penalties, especially those who use “off the shelf” accounting software such as QuickBooks to prepare payroll and file their own payroll taxes.

Act 32 streamlines tax collection by using standardized forms and definitions and consolidating EIT tax collectors – from 560 to no more than 69. Other details of Act 32 include anticipated uniform withholding, remittance, and distribution processes. Employers in East Rockhill should do the following:

- Have every employee complete a certificate of residency to identify the correct jurisdiction and political subdivision where each employee resides. If not already registered for EIT withholding, determine whether there is any EIT where the business is located or where any employee lives. If so, the employer must register with the tax officer within 15 days of becoming subject to Act 32.



- For each employee, determine the non-resident EIT rate for the business jurisdiction PSD and the employee's resident EIT rate.
- For each employee, identify the higher of the two EIT rates above, and withhold the higher rate.
- Prepare annual reconciliation filings with W-2s.

Employers who willfully fail to collect, or truthfully account for and remit income taxes, will be committing a misdemeanor. The penalties are on the employer NOT the employee. Employers must use the certificate of residency (see above) to provide proof of compliance if necessary and avoid the penalties. If convicted, employers may be fined up to \$25,000 and/or be subject to imprisonment of up to two years, or both.

Business owners in Pennsylvania must work closely with their payroll and accounting professionals to comply with these new regulations. They should prepare and plan for this change right now. Start by immediately going to the existing employees to identify and register with the appropriate tax collection district and begin collecting the employee certificates of residency.

More information on local tax collection can be found at [www.picpa.org/Act32](http://www.picpa.org/Act32) or at [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com). There is also an instructional video link posted on the East Rockhill Township Website [www.eastrockhilltownship.org](http://www.eastrockhilltownship.org).

## Winter Weather Guidelines

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.

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# Preventing Polluted Runoff

## Everybody's Business

**pet waste, fertilizer, chemicals, auto fluids**

Homeowners can prevent polluted runoff by using fertilizers and chemicals sparingly, maintaining septic systems, and picking up pet waste.

**nutrients, pesticides, sediment**

Farmers can prevent polluted runoff by managing soil and animal feeding operations and buffering streams with native trees and plants.

**oil, heat, road salts, sediment, chemicals**

Developers and planners can prevent polluted runoff by using low impact development and providing structural and nonstructural controls.

**EPA** United States Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA 901-H-03-001  
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For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)

### HUNTING SEASON Q & A

**H**unting 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.



 **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to East Rockhill resident Lora Sulahian, who won a \$100 cash prize for taking part in a 20-question online survey about stormwater. The Perkiomen MS4 Partnership sponsored the contest as part of its efforts to increase awareness about how stormwater run-off impacts your water supply. Lora is pictured with Supervisor John Cressman.



**Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day.** Please exercise your right as an American citizen to cast your ballot.

East Rockhill Township is divided into two voting districts, but there is only one polling place:

**Christ Community Bible Church**  
1830 Ridge Road • Perkasie, PA  
Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Sign-Up to Receive Township eNewsletter

We will continue to publish this printed newsletter twice a year (in spring and fall). However, 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.eastrockhilltownship.org](http://www.eastrockhilltownship.org)) and click in the button to register.**



# PENNRIDGE REGION POLICE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

## **Pennridge Regional Police Department New Building Dedication October 22, 2011**

Officials from East Rockhill joined their counterparts from West Rockhill in dedicating the Pennridge Regional Police Department's new headquarters on October 22.

Supervisors John Cressman and Jim Nietupski thanked all involved for their cooperation and hard work in creating a state-of-the-art facility for law enforcement.



Police Chief David Mettin.



East Rockhill Supervisor John Cressman.



East Rockhill Supervisor Jim Nietupski.



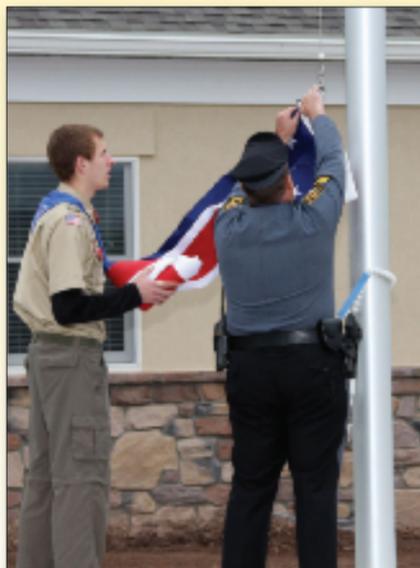
East Rockhill Supervisor Gary Volovnik with West Rockhill Supervisor John Mann.



From left: Jim Nietupski, Jay Keyser, Project Manager Ben Botti and John Cressman.



State Representative Paul Clymer congratulates Police Chief David Mettin.



Police officer Rodney Blake assists Eagle Scout Austin Koehler in raising the flag.



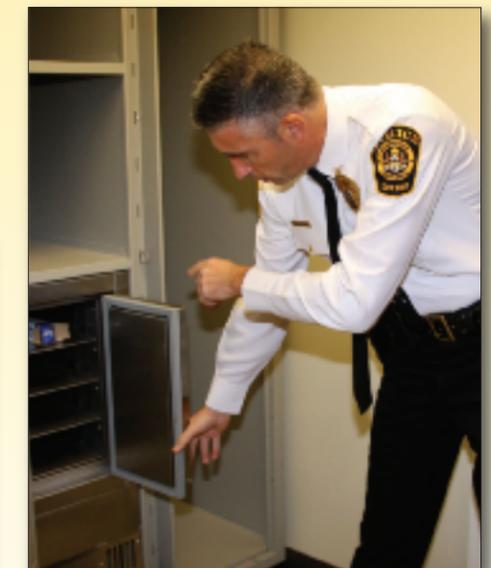
From left, State Senator Bob Mensch, West Rockhill Supervisor Jay Keyser, and East Rockhill Supervisors John Cressman and Jim Nietupski.



Eagle Scout Austin Kohler with his father and State Representative Paul Clymer.



Pennridge Regional police officers.



Chief David Mettin shows off one of the new storage lockers.