

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

Report

Fall/Winter 2012

FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Our Public Works crew will begin collecting leaves in November. Leaves should be raked into neat piles along the road frontage no later than 7 a.m. on the first day of your areas collection date, it is okay to tarp them to prevent wind disturbance. Remember, fall collection is for leaves only. If you miss the Public Works collection dates homeowners can bring their leaves to the Township Yard Waste container.

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 RoadNovember 5
- North of Ridge Road and West of Schoolhouse RoadNovember 12
- South of Ridge Road November 19

5th STREET BASIN UPDATE

East Rockhill Township was awarded a growing Greener grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection and Bucks County for retrofitting the Fifth Street stormwater basin with a naturalized basin designed to current DEP standards.

The new design will help reduce non-point source pollution and help maintain water quality. Main excavation began September 5, plantings to be completed by the end of October.



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East Rockhill Township • 1622 North Ridge Road • Perkasie, PA 18944

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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, tree stumps, 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.

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.

Reminders About Trash and Recycling Collection



States Acts 101 and 140 requires municipalities with more than 5,000 residents to require every resident to have solid waste collection and participate in a recycling program that includes leaf and yard waste. The acts also require that all commercial, institutional and municipal establishments have waste and recycling service that includes leaf and yard waste.

East Rockhill Township is a mandated community and must be in compliance to receive state aid and grant funding. Residents, businesses and institutions not in compliance and/or caught illegally dumping are subject to fines and penalties enforced by East Rockhill Township.

PRIVATE COLLECTION

Those who do not live within the trash district must arrange for trash pick-up with a private hauler approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Republic Services is the required trash hauler within the trash district, however, residents living outside of the trash district can also take advantage of the contract price which is \$60.30/quarter in 2012.

Trash haulers in East Rockhill Township must provide both trash and co-mingled recycling collection as part of the normal collection fee. They also must provide at least one collection each of leaves and garden materials, tree trimmings, and Christmas trees.

The following are known trash haulers working within the township. A listing here does not imply an endorsement by East Rockhill Township. If you feel a company is missing, please contact the township.

Republic Services
215-723-0400
www.republicservices.com

Ches-Mont
610-584-5450
www.chesmont.com

Waste Management
1-800-869-5566
www.wm.com



G & C Waste Services
610-313-9710
www.gcwaste.com

Whitetail
610-754-0103
www.whitetaildisposal.com

HERITAGE CONSERVANCY HELPS AMPHIBIANS CROSS THE ROAD

Most amphibians require both land and water to survive and reproduce. Amphibians are born in water as larval forms and eventually undergo metamorphosis, changing into an adult form. Many species leave the water to live out their adult lives on land, but they must return to water to breed and lay eggs.

In the Quakertown Swamp, frogs, salamanders, and other amphibians indigenous to the swamp must cross a busy road in order to get to the vernal pools on the other side to breed. The journey for these creatures to the breeding grounds can be dangerous. Passersby usually don't notice them on the road, and therefore, few cars slow down to allow them to cross safely.

For this reason, Heritage Conservancy, an accredited not-for-profit conservation organization located in Doylestown, partnered with a group of volunteers to establish Quakertown Swamp Amphibian Crossings in 2011, a project that helped provide safe passage for amphibians during breeding season.



With warmer temperatures occurring in mid-February, the Quakertown Swamp Amphibian Crossing committee was put on alert to watch for signs of the mass crossing to begin. As soon as heavy rains came through and temperatures remained above 38 degrees, volunteers would be out on the roads looking for the first salamanders to come out of hibernation.

The crossings happened sporadically over a couple of weeks at Muskrat and Rich Hill roads in Richland Township and Rockhill Road in East Rockhill Township, and were completely dependent upon weather conditions. The first official mass crossing occurred around 8:30 p.m. in late February, and lasted well into the next morning. The most populous crossings occurred very late in the evening and into the early hours of the morning, around 3 a.m.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, Richland Township and their local police department, East Rockhill Township and their road crew, and residents of Quakertown Swamp, Heritage Conservancy was successful in assisting nearly 1,000 salamanders and frogs cross to the vernal pools!

Longtime Planner Steps Down



Dean Frankenfield

Dean Frankenfield joined the Planning Commission in the early 1990s, not long after he bought a house in the township. "I wanted to help make sure the community remained small and true to its roots," he recalled. "I didn't want to let development take over." Now, after nearly 20 years on the commission, most of them as chairman, did he accomplish that goal? "Absolutely," he said without hesitation.

Dean is especially proud of the planning commission's role in executing the township's aggressive plan to preserve open space through the acquisition of conservation and development rights to key parcels. "We've done a good job keeping the integrity of the township intact," he says.

An estimator for J.G. Petrucci Co., Dean is moving to the Lehigh Valley.

"I think everyone worked well together," Dean said of his time on the commission. "No matter who was on the board, we were always focused on achieving the end result with the township's best interest in mind."

Township Seeking Volunteers

Municipal government works best when there is active public participation. Your help is needed to service on the various board and commissions that help the township operate effectively.

If you are interested in public service, download a volunteer application from our website, fill it out, and return it to the township office on Ridge Road.

It is also suggested that interested volunteers attend a few regular monthly township meetings to get a sense for how they operate.

UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP ACTIVITIES

2013 Budget Process Underway

The Board of Supervisors conducted budget work sessions in October for the purpose of reviewing the draft 2013 Budget prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer. A final review of the budget will be at the Board of Supervisors' November meeting to give the Secretary-Treasurer direction for the final modifications prior to advertising the Draft Budget for public review. During the public review period -- anticipated to be between November 20, 2012 and December 11, 2012 -- we encourage our residents to examine the budget either on the Township website (www.eastrockhilltownship.org) or at the Municipal Building. Feel free to provide feedback or commentary. The budget will be considered for adoption at the December Board of Supervisor meeting as noted on the Township's website calendar.

Township Seeks Funds for Intersection

East Rockhill Township, with the support of state Rep. Paul Clymer and state Sen. Bob Mensch, has applied for an Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant from PennDOT Bureau of Program Development and Management for the intersections of state Routes 313 and 563. The intersection currently is controlled by a stop sign for motorists on Route 563. However, the intersection has a substantial history of accidents and an increase in traffic volume.

Any support local residents would like to give the grant by contacting PennDOT would be appreciated.



Portion of Three Mile Run Trail Completed



East Rockhill residents now have a safer place to stroll along Three Mile Run Road, thanks to the Perkasio Regional Authority. The mile-long paved path, between the railroad overpass and Schoolhouse Road, is part of an agreement between the water authority and the township.

It was reached when wells and water lines were built and installed on Schwenkmill and Three Mile Run roads, said Gary Winton, manager of the authority. East Rockhill waived some building fees in exchange for the trail, he said. "I think it worked out fine for everybody," Winton said. "The people get some place to walk off Three Mile Run, which is pretty narrow and cars go down there pretty quickly." The water authority has a line installed underneath, and because of the trail, valve boxes won't get lost in overgrowth, he added.

The long-term plan is to connect the trail to nearby Markey Park at Ridge and Schoolhouse roads. The water authority has an easement off Schoolhouse Road, on the edge of property owned by the Pennridge Airport, and is negotiating with the airport to extend the trail up to the park.

PRA To Break Ground on New Headquarters

The Perkasio Regional Authority expects to break ground on its new headquarters this fall. The authority owns about four acres between the Comcast building and Pennridge Regional Police headquarters. The land was purchased for \$600,000. Bids for the new headquarters came in at \$4.9 million. The new headquarters will be 23,000 square feet, giving the authority the ability to store its inventory under one roof, as well as room to grow over the next 50 years. The project is being partially funded from a 2010 bond issue. The authority also plans to sell its current headquarters on North Fifth Street in Perkasio. The authority serves customers in Perkasio, West Rockhill, East Rockhill and Hilltown.

continued on page 6



UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP ACTIVITIES *continued from page 5*

Need to Safely Dispose of Old Medications?



The Pennridge Regional Police Department is taking part in a "drug take back" program coordinated by the Bucks County District Attorney's Office, the County Detectives, and the DEA.

The Department purchased a Med Return drop box, which is located in the waiting room of the PRPD building at 200 Ridge Road. Citizens can drop unwanted medication into the box anonymously with no questions asked. The box is routinely emptied and medications promptly turned over to the District Attorney's office for proper disposal.

Road Work Completed

- With help from our neighboring municipalities, White Road received a complete overlay in August.
- Branch Road between Schwenkmill and Callowhill roads, as well as Blooming Glen Road received an oil and chip application in September.
- Richlandtown Road from the Township line to Covered Bridge Road will receive a complete overlay in October by the East Rockhill Road crew.

Drainage Swale Completed

Members of the Public Works crew installed a new storm drain and created a swale leading to the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek to help with flooding issues at the intersection of Branch and Blooming Glen Roads.



Rockhill Road Bridge Update

The township has taken out a \$1 million loan to replace the Rockhill Road Bridge over Three Mile Run.

Revenue from the infrastructure tax increase will be used to pay off that loan over the next 20 to 30 years, according to the Board of Supervisors. The township plans to seek 80 percent reimbursement from the state for the bridge work to help pay down the debt.

Officials hope to begin work on the bridge in April 2013. The double stone-arch bridge, built in 1901, was last rehabilitated in 1988. Pieces of the stonework along its sides have been crumbling into the creek. The bridge has been reduced to one lane, and the township has placed barricades along its sides for safety, but officials say it will have to be closed unless it is renovated.

From the Desk of Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

All 2012 real estate taxes have been mailed out to all property owners. The county and township real estate taxes were mailed on March 1 and are now due in penalty until the end of this year. School real estate taxes were mailed on July 1 and are due in face until October 31, 2012. After October 31, the school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year.

* * * *

There was a change in the school bills starting this year. Every parcel now can be paid in installments. To use this method, the first installment had to have been postmarked by August 15. The remaining two installment coupons were included with your original bill. The second installment is due on October 15 and the final installment is due on December 15. Please note that if you elect to opt in to pay by installments, you cannot opt out after the first payment is made.

* * * *

If the property you own is your primary residence, **you may be eligible to receive a reduction in your school tax bill** as part of the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Relief Act. This reduction amount did increase this past year to \$201.62.

This amount changes each year with respect to a calculation tied to state revenue from gambling. If you do not see this reduction and you believe you are eligible, you may download the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Form and Instructions from a link available on the township's website. Click on "Living Here" then "Tax Collection," which will bring you to the page where the form can be printed out and mailed to Bucks County Board of Assessment 55 East State Street Doylestown, PA 18901. If you do not have access to a computer or have any questions, please contact me or the Bucks County Board of Assessment at 215-348-6219.



Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

If you would like to verify that your tax payments were received or have any other concerns, please contact me at 215-453-8866 or by email at eastrockhilltax@comcast.net. I would be happy to assist you with any questions you have.

From The West Rockhill Historical Society . . .

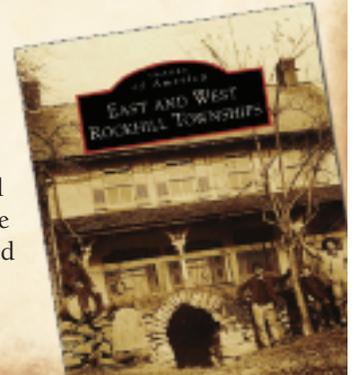
The West Rockhill Historical Society meets on the second Monday of the month at West Rockhill Township Building, 1028 Ridge Road. All are welcome to attend.

Each meeting features a guest speaker. Here is the schedule through the remainder of 2012:

November 12: Earl Scheetz will talk about “Gosenhoppen Crafts”

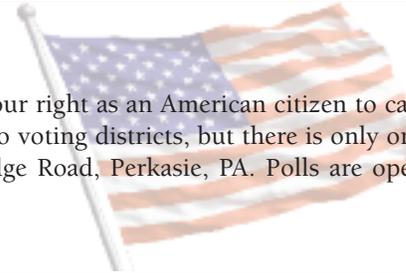
December 10: *Christmas Party*, with music by Emil Klinger, with sons and grandson

Membership in the WRHS is open to anyone interested in the history of West Rockhill Township. Members can participate as “active” or “contributing” members. Annual dues are \$10 payable each September (\$15 Family Membership). However, membership is encouraged at any time during the year.



VOTE

Tuesday, November 6 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, 1810 Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.



Pennridge Community Center Activities

The Pennridge Community Center, located at 146 East Main Street in Silverdale (intersection of routes 313 and 152), offers a wide variety of activities residents 55 or older who live in local municipalities, including East Rockhill Township.



DANCE SCHEDULE

October 26 - Fall Ball Dinner
November 9 - Harvest Dinner Dance
December 14 - Holiday Dinner Dance
December 31 - New Years' Eve Party



Singles and couples are welcomed. Tickets are \$20 per person for both the dinner and the dance, or \$10 for the dance only. Dinner reservations are required. Table reservations are available for parties of eight or more.

Day programs and activities at the 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 at 215.257.7027.*



Sign up for eNews

We continue to publish this newsletter twice a year (spring and fall). However, for more current news, please encourage your friends and neighbors to sign up for our e-newsletter. Delivered to your inbox, our e-newsletter contains the most up-to-date information about township issues and community events. Just go to the township homepage (eastrockhilltownship.org) and click on the link to register.

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 & 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

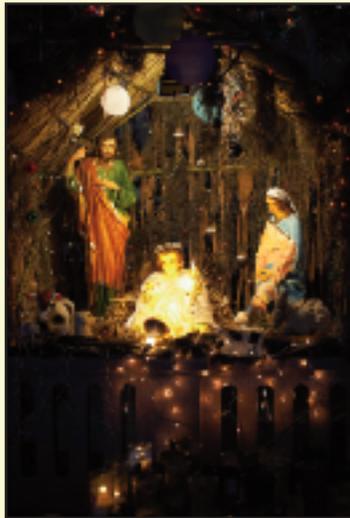
Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and have it cleaned if necessary. Always use a fire screen, and burn only material appropriate for fireplaces. Burn only wood - never burn paper or pine boughs in a fireplace as the burning particles can float up your chimney and onto your roof or into 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.

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.
- 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.



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



- 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.
- 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.

AFTER THE STORM

A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and 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 waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and for providing drinking water.

The Effects of Pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into bodies of water can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Residential

Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids. Do not put them onto the ground or into storm sewers.

Lawn Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a sprinkler hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Use pesticides and insecticides sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into a storm drain or sewer. Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drain has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a body of water.

- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its waste water, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

Septic Systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby bodies of water. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

- Inspect your system every three years and pump your tank as necessary (every three-to-five years).
- Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local water.

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best possible method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water supplies.

For more information about stormwater, visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.



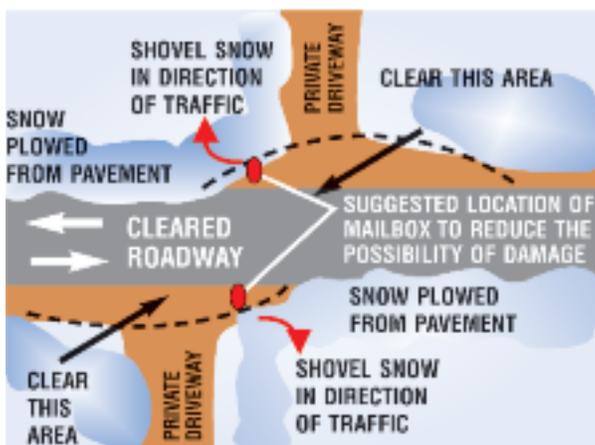
WINTER WEATHER GUIDELINES

- ❄ **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.



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 at left) 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.



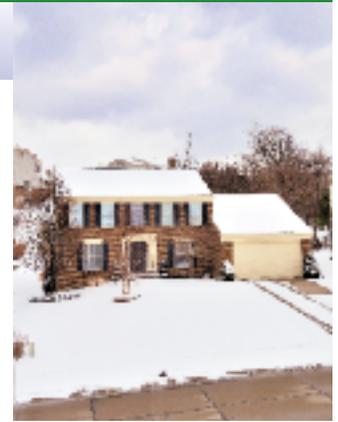
Prepare Your Home for Winter

As winter approaches, our thoughts turn to other activities as we plan for the annual hibernation to the indoors. This is also a good time to plan a safe hibernation for your house as well. The constant change in the weather can have a significant effect on your house that, if left unchecked, may result in major repairs in the future.

Now is the time to inspect your house for anything that does not appear to be normal. Things to look for include loose siding, missing or torn shingles, broken or sticking doors, missing caulking around windows or any other item that will leave your home exposed to the elements. Now is the time to start addressing these items before the cold weather sets in and these items are forgotten.

You may also want to take a look at other items that are often overlooked until it is too late. One important item is your home heating system. Most people who are not on a maintenance program forget to have service performed until well into the heating season when the furnace decides to stop working. Unfortunately, this is the time that most heating contractors are busiest and you may have to wait for service. Avoid the headache and plan ahead.

Items such as your water heater may need your attention as well as other home appliances. Remember to check and make sure water pipes are properly insulated and not exposed to freezing temperatures. Be sure that leaves and debris do not obstruct water flow from gutters and downspouts. Water that freezes and is allowed to back up rooftops often provides you with unwelcome leaks. The lists are endless, but remember your home is a major investment - take good care of it.



Protect Yourself and Your Family Today!

In the event of a fire, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning alarm to your household. This alarm could save your own life and those of your loved ones by providing the chance to escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

Why Should My Home Have Smoke Alarms?

A smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are a very important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal -- so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.



What Types of Smoke Alarms Are Available?

There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market but they fall under two basic types: **ionization** and **photoelectric**. Ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast-moving fire occurs. Photoelectric alarms are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. There are also combination smoke alarms that combine ionization and photoelectric into one unit, called dual sensor smoke alarms. Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, the United States Fire Administration recommends the installation of both ionization and photoelectric or dual sensor smoke alarms. In addition to the basic types of alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

Where Do I Put Them?

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise,

installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Where Can I Get Smoke Alarms?

Many hardware, home supply, or general merchandise (K-Mart, for example) stores carry smoke alarms. If you are unsure where to buy one in your community, call the Fire Marshal's office for suggestions. The Fire Marshal's office also offers smoke

alarms for free to residents who can not afford to purchase them.

Are Smoke Alarms Hard to Install?

If your smoke alarms are hard wired into the electrical system -- you will need to have a qualified electrician do the initial installation or install replacements. For battery-powered smoke alarms, all you will need for installation is a screwdriver. Some brands are self adhesive and will stick easily to the wall or ceiling where they are placed. For all smoke alarm installations, be sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions because there are differences between the various brands.

How Do I Keep My Smoke Alarm Working?

- If you have a smoke alarm with batteries:
- Smoke Alarms powered by long-lasting batteries are designed to replace the entire unit according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - In standard type battery powered smoke alarms, the batteries need to be replaced at least once per year and the whole unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.
 - In hard-wired, battery backup smoke alarms, the batteries need to be checked monthly, and replaced at least once per year. The entire unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 1	Planning Commission Work Session, 7:30 p.m. at Township Building
Sunday, November 4	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Tuesday, November 6	Election Day
Wednesday, November 7	Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Township Building
Thursday, November 8	Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Township Building
Sunday, November 11	Veterans Day
Monday, November 12	Township Offices Closed
Tuesday, November 13	Board of Supervisors Work Session
Sunday, November 18	Perkasie Fire Company Breakfast
Tuesday, November 20	Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 22	Thanksgiving, Township Offices Closed
Friday, November 23	Township Offices Closed
Saturday, November 24	Perkasie Fire Co. Appliance and Scrap Metal Recycling Event
Monday, November 26	Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Meeting
Wednesday, November 28	Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 1	Perkasie Tree Lighting, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at 7th and Market
Wednesday, December 5	Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting
Thursday, December 6	Planning Commission Work Session
Tuesday, December 11	Board of Supervisors Work Session
Thursday, December 13	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Sunday, December 16	Perkasie Fire Company All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast
Tuesday, December 18	Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Monday, December 24	Christmas Eve, Township Offices Closed
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day, Township Offices Closed

Did You Know . . .



East Rockhill is on Twitter (@EastRockhillTwp). Follow us and stay up-to-date on breaking news about township activities. It's a quick, easy and FREE way to be an informed citizen!



The Pennridge Regional Police Department is on Twitter (@PennridgePD). Follow us for news about public safety issues in the township.

East Rockhill Township Contact Information

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

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

Board of Supervisors:

Gary W. Volovnik, Chair
Jim C. Nietupski, Vice-Chair
David R. Nyman, 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., unless posted otherwise

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., as needed.

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 every other month at 7 p.m., as needed.

Administrative Staff:

Township Secretary/Treasurer:

Marianne K. Morano

Building Inspector & Zoning Officer:

Michael Gardner

Public Works Director: Jeff Scholl

Bookkeeper: Allyson Lowe

Email Addresses:

staff@eastrockhilltownship.org

inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org

works@eastrockhilltownship.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, Perkasie, 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, unless posted otherwise, 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

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NOTICE

The Bucks County Housing Authority is accepting Applications for Elderly Housing at the **Grundy Manor** in Telford for one-bedroom apartments

Applicants must be 62 years old or older and meet occupancy standards
Income limit for **one person** - \$45,500
Income limit for **two people** - \$52,000

Applications may be obtained by calling
215-348-9469
215-721-0331
TDD 215-348-7939

Applications will be accepted from all potentially eligible applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, familial status, national origin, or handicap.

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