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EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

Report



SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION: WEEK OF MAY 28

Now that the nice weather has arrived, residents will begin the ritual of trimming, pruning and planting. The question is always the same: what should I do with all this yard waste?

Since 2007, East Rockhill has provided curbside collection of yard waste and leaf recycling under requirements imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection under Act 101 of 1988 and Act 140 of 2006.

Spring yard waste collection is scheduled by district with no registration required. The 2013 Spring Program is as follows:

- 🌿 **District I:** Collection south of and including Ridge Road during the week of May 28
- 🌿 **District II:** Collection north of Ridge Road during the week of June 3

Here are a few important reminders about the program:

- 🌿 Have your yard waste out by the curb by 7 a.m. of the first day of your collection.
- 🌿 Leaves or grass clippings are NOT permitted; tree branches and brush only.
- 🌿 Place tree limbs and branches in neat piles at the edge of the road or driveway.
- 🌿 Branches are limited to six (6) feet long and no greater than five (5) inches in circumference.
- 🌿 Piles for pick-up are limited to four (4) feet wide, four (4) feet high, and six (6) feet long.
- 🌿 Please be patient - it may take several days to complete collections throughout the Township.

If you miss the curbside collection or have additional yard waste, the East Rockhill Township Drop-off Center is open Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, from 6 p.m. to noon for township residents and residential personal recycling only; commercial landscapers are not permitted. The center is monitored electronically, and violators will be prosecuted.

Please do not leave bags with the leaf and yard waste.

Township Acquires Open Space

With the help of Bucks County Open Space program, the Township has acquired 18 acres along Ridge Road that joins the Willard H. Markey Centennial Park with the Municipal Complex.

On October 9, the board approved payment of the \$325,000 purchase payment and acceptance of \$122,647.80 in Bucks County open space funding for a conservation easement protecting 13.05 acres of the tract from ever being developed. The other five acres will be set aside for municipal uses, Board Chairman Gary Volovnik said.

"We feel this is an opportunity for the Township because of the location," he said, adding that an opening will be made from the park to the property.

The property will be farmed in 2013.

East Rockhill Township • 1622 North Ridge Road • Perkasie, 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.

Visit us on the web at: www.EastRockhillTownship.org

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This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.



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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

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

Income limit for **one person** - \$44,350
Income limit for **two people** - \$50,700

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

NOTICE

The Bucks County Housing Authority is accepting Applications for affordable one-bedroom apartments at **Shadywood Village, Perkasia, PA.**

Qualified Applicant Requirements:
• Minimum age 62 or older
• Not exceeding the following income limits
Income limit for **one person** - \$27,750
Income limit for **two people** - \$31,700

Applications can be obtained from the **Bucks County Housing Authority office at 350 South Main Street, Suite 205, Doylestown, PA** or by calling **215-348-9469**

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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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

- 12 - Mother's Day
- 18 - Perkasio SpringFest 2013, noon - 9 p.m.
- 19 - Perkasio Fire Co. All-You-Can-East Breakfast
- 25 - Perkasio Fire Co. Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive
- 27 - Memorial Day
- 28 - Menlo Aquatic Center (Perkasie) Open for Leisure and Baby Pool

JUNE

- 14 - Flag Day
- 16 - Perkasio Fire Co. All-You-Can-East Breakfast
Menlo Aquatic Center (Perkasie) Regular Season Begins
- 21 - Last Day of Classes for Pennridge Students
- 22 - Perkasio Fire Co. Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive
- 26-30 - Perkasio Fire Co. Carnival

JULY

- 4 - Independence Day
- 8 - Perkasio Community Day
- 27 - Perkasio Fire Co. Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive

SEPTEMBER

- 2 - Labor Day
- 3 - First Day of Classes for Pennridge Students
- 11 - Patriot Day
- 15 - Perkasio Fire Co. All-You-Can-East Breakfast
- 28 - Perkasio Fire Co. Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive

OCTOBER

- 1 - Perkasio Fire Co. Open House
- 14 - Columbus Day
- 20 - Perkasio Fire Co. All-You-Can-East Breakfast
- 26 - Perkasio Fire Co. Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive

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, Perkasio, 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

Police Commission: 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at 200 Ridge Road

Administrative Staff:

Township Manager
Marianne K. Morano
manager@eastrockhilltownship.org

Zoning Officer and BCO
Michael Gardner
inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org

Bookkeeper
Allyson Lowe
finance@eastrockhilltownship.org

Public Works
Jeff Scholl, Director
works@eastrockhilltownship.org

Paul Behr, Mechanic
Kirby Richards, Laborer

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

Unless Otherwise Noted

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
*unless otherwise noted

Police Emergency: 24 Hours – 911

Police Non-Emergency: 215-257-5104

Fire Emergency: 911

Tax Collector: 215-453-8866

Supervisor Celebrates Three Decades of Service to Community

There is only one thing that has kept Gary Volovnik going as a member of the Board of Supervisors since 1983 is his intense desire to serve the community. "The people keep me going," he said. "I care about people. I want to help them."

Looking back on three decades of service, Gary is most proud of several accomplishments, including the purchase of 90 acres for the Willard Markey Township, Park, the creation of the Pennridge Regional Police Department, the establishment of a Perkasio Fire Co. sub-station in East Rockhill, and the township's zoning and comprehensive plan.

But for members of the Board of Supervisors, community service means more than serving as an elected official. Gary, for example, spends one day a month picking up litter along Three Mile Run Road near his home.

Jim Nietupski, meanwhile, serves as Chairman of the Pennridge Regional Police Commission.

And then there's Dave Nyman, who serves as Chairman of Senior Center Advisory Board, President of the Pennridge Chamber of Commerce, and is an active member of Bucks County Planning Commission.

"It's important that we are engaged in all aspects of the community," he said. "It's one thing to sit in the boardroom and make decisions. It's another to be part of making this community a better place to live."



Dave Nyman, Gary Volovnik, and Jim Nietupski.

2013 Budget Approved

With the current economic climate still uncertain, your Board of Supervisors continues to look at cost-saving solutions that allow us to hold the line on property taxes.

In 2013, we look forward to the following savings and revenue enhancements in our \$3.5 million budget:

- With a new electricity generation contract in place, the Township will see its cost drop approximately 30 percent. The rate will drop from 9.14 cents per kWh in 2012 to 6.237 cents per kWh in 2013.
- We expect to see more than \$3,000 a year savings thanks to higher investment interest rates and lower banking fees by switching our accounts to Quakertown National Bank.
- To take advantage of declining interest rates, we are exploring ways to refinance some high-interest notes.
- Our enews supplier, Chroma Creative Group of Perkasio, will work with us in 2013 to increase the subscriber list at one-half the rate paid in 2012, a \$2,400 savings.
- With the purchase of 18 acres adjoining the Willard H. Markey Park to the Municipal Complex, we have added two new rental properties that should bring in an additional \$17,700 for 2013.

- All three supervisors will continue to volunteer their service, saving taxpayers \$5,625.
- For future pension savings, a cash balance plan is being added to the pension plan for any new hires.

We look forward to providing all the same level of services to you, despite reducing staff to five full-time employees.

The real estate tax rate remains at 8.135 mills, or approximately \$325 for the owner of a property assessed at the Township average. The \$325 is divided among General Fund (\$209), Fire Protection (\$40), Police Headquarters Debt Service (\$50) and the Infrastructure (Rockhill Road Bridge reconstruction) Debt Service (\$26).

A yearly increase of \$10 per quarter for sewer bill was enacted, a portion of which will go into a sewer Capital Reserve Fund for future infrastructure repairs. Sewer bills for residential properties connected to the public sewer system will go from the current \$100 per quarter to \$110 per quarter (\$440 for the year).

The last time the sewer rates were increased was in 2010; they remain below rates paid by residents of surrounding municipalities.

There is no increase to street light assessments included in the budget.

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UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP ACTIVITIES

Sewer Service

It has recently come to the attention of the Township that a property connected to the Township's public sewer lines was not being billed for that service. Upon appeal, it was the decision of the Board of Supervisors to not back-bill for the service at this time, but bill from January 1, 2013 forward.

In this regard, the board informs the owner of any residence that is not paying for sewer service provided has until the end of this year to acknowledge the fact to avoid being back-billed.

However, connections discovered after this year will be back-billed to the date of the connection.

Road Work Scheduled

- Branch Road and Blooming Glen Road oil and chip will be reapplied this spring.
- Planning is underway for the reconstruction of Rockhill Road Bridge, with work expected to begin in spring 2014.
- Proposed 2013 Road Work: Three Mile Run Road (oil and chip); Hill Road (oil and chip); Richlandtown Road, from Covered Bridge Road to Clymer Road (complete overlay).

Walking Path Extended

As an extension of the walking path installed along Three Mile Run Road, Perkasio Regional Authority is installing a walking path from Schoolhouse Road through the Pennridge Airport to Markey Park, connecting to the existing walking path in the Park.

One-Ton Truck

In the 2012 Budget, the Board of Supervisors approved purchase of this new one-ton dump truck. That allowed the Township to sell the old 1997 one-ton dump truck and a 1995 pickup truck through a competitive bidding process.



We received a total of \$12,235 for the two trucks, effectively reducing the cost of the new dump truck by that amount.

Stormwater Awareness



As part of state Stormwater regulations, the Township has installed medallions at stormwater inlets throughout the Township.

1731 Old Bethlehem Pike Proposed Development

The 1731 Old Bethlehem Pike proposed development that was granted conditional approval, was appealed by the applicant to the County Court.

In November 2012 the Township received the Judge's decision, basically affirming the majority of conditions established by the Township.

The applicant has appealed the County Court decision to the Commonwealth Court.

Marianne Morano Appointed Township Manager

In February the Supervisor's appointed Marianne Morano as Township Manager. She has been performing the job since December 2011 with the title of Secretary - Treasurer.

ARLE grant application for Routes 313 & 563 denied by PennDOT

East Rockhill Township, with the support of state Rep. Paul Clymer and state Sen. Bob Mensch, 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 to install a traffic signal.

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 a future grant by contacting PennDOT at 717-787-6899 would be appreciated.

Tenant ID forms are required

Do you have tenants?

If the answer is yes, you should be aware that East Rockhill Township Ordinance number 99 requires a tenant identification form be completed every year. The purpose is to efficiently identify residents of leased properties in order to collect taxes in a more equitable manner. All residents must be identified, even if no rent is charged and the individual is directly related to you. Forms are available on the township website or by contacting the Township office.

5th Street Basin Project Completed

Upgrade of the Fifth Street stormwater basin has been substantially completed. Final clean-up will occur in the spring. Funded by a grant from the State Department of Environmental Protection and Bucks County, the naturalized area is designed to current DEP standards will help reduce nonpoint source pollution and help maintain water quality.

Community Visioning Session

Last year, Bucks County launched a Municipal Economic Development Initiative designed to provide assistance to municipalities with a desire to promote smart economic development.

Bucks County Planning Commission will be sponsoring a Township Visioning Session – at no charge to East Rockhill – (June 10, 7 p.m. at Pennridge High School LGI 3.2) to understand the community's needs and wants, data collection (demographics), grant information, zoning and planning tools, and other useful information to help develop a plan for the future of East Rockhill Township.

Plan to attend and be a part of the future of East Rockhill.

Volunteers Needed



The Township is seeking applications for volunteers to serve on the Park & Recreation Board and Planning Commission and Joint UCC Appeal Board.

No experience is necessary. If you are interested in serving your community, please call the Township Office at 215-257-9156 for more information or complete a volunteer application on the Township website.

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.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

A quick checklist for parents

Place this list in a prominent area of your home for quick reference. Then, before your children head out the door for the playground, check that:

- **Supervision is present, but strings and ropes aren't.**

Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.

- **All children play on Age-appropriate equipment.**

Preschoolers, ages 2-5, and children ages 5 -1 2, are developmentally different and need different equipment located in separate areas to keep the playground safe and fun for all.

- **Falls to surface are cushioned.**

Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playgrounds surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.

- **Equipment is safe.**

Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc.



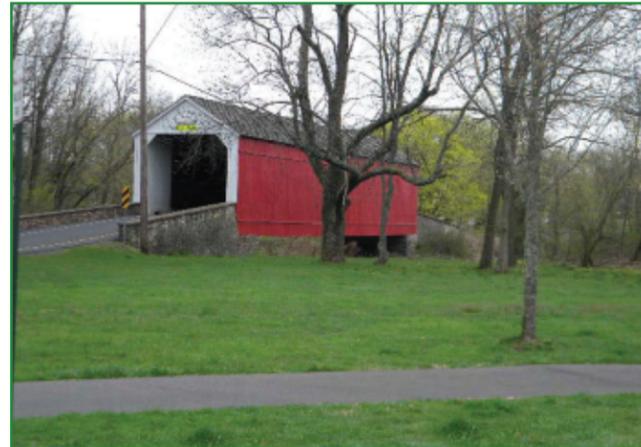
Checklist is from the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at www.uni.edu/playground/

From the Desk of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society

On a summer night in 2004, East Rockhill Township residents heard fire sirens and wailing horns from fire trucks. From his backyard, Supervisor John Cressman could see that Mood's Covered Bridge was burning.

By the next morning, the historic bridge was destroyed by arsonists. Cressman was instrumental in leading the fight to have the covered span rebuilt. Working with community leaders, local and state government officials, and local residents, his work paid off in 2008 when the newly reconstructed Mood's Covered Bridge was dedicated.

After attending the 2007 Bucks County Covered Bridges Festival, Cressman realized the need to help preserve and protect the remaining twelve covered bridges in Bucks County. Once again working with local community leaders and residents, John was instrumental in creating the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society in 2007. Township resident Bill Wilson served as the first Chairman of the society.



At one time, more than 50 covered bridges stood in Bucks County, many of them spanning the Delaware River crossing into New Jersey. Vandalism, arson, neglect, and development have taken their toll on the covered bridges that were once common in our region. Thirteen of these historic spans remain in existence today; ten of them still carry vehicles.

The Bucks County Covered Bridge Society's Mission is to "Preserve, Protect, and Promote the covered bridges of Bucks County." Among its various projects, the society is nearing the completion of helping to protect Knecht's Covered Bridge in Springfield Township. The society raised money from a variety of outlets to pay for low level lighting, fire suppression, and surveillance of the bridge, which has, in the past, been a victim of vandalism and arson.

The society plans to continue this approach for the remaining covered bridges in Bucks County. The society is also working with local officials in municipalities where the bridges are located to adopt ordinances imposing fines for those who intentionally damage a covered bridge. Included are fines for drivers and owners of oversized vehicles that cause damage to covered bridges.

Partnering with the Bucks County Visitor and Conference Bureau, the bridge society has printed and distributed brochures about the covered bridges of Bucks County. In addition, the society has created an informative website that provides information on all of the covered bridges, as well as driving instructions for visitors' car tours. The website also includes photos of the bridges and notices of upcoming meetings and events.

The newly reconstructed Mood's Covered Bridge is one of two covered bridges remaining in East Rockhill Township, along with Sheard's Mill Bridge that crosses the Tohickon Creek into neighboring Haycock Township. A lovely township park is situated adjacent to the Mood's Bridge where residents and visitors can enjoy the site. Not far away, in Lenape Park, Perkasio Borough, sits the South Perkasio Covered Bridge. This bridge was moved from its original location to the park in 1959.

The Bucks County Covered Bridge Society welcomes all community members to visit the website at <http://www.buckscountycbs.org/> where you can learn about visiting the bridges and becoming involved with their preservation.

PRA Breaks Ground on New Building

The Perkasio Regional Authority broke ground on its new headquarters last 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.



Did You Know?

Bucks County sponsors a number of programs that can be of assistance to Township residents. Here are a few:

- **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).** In 2008 Bucks County created a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model for law enforcement departments. CIT is designed to improve the outcomes of police interactions with individuals whose behavior is influenced by mental illness, substance use, mental retardation and related conditions. Officers learn to recognize psychiatric distress and other conditions and how to de-escalate a crisis to avoid officer injuries, deaths, and tragedy for the community. Research has proved CIT training reduces arrests, the use of restraint, citizen and police officer injuries, hospitalization and vastly improves the safety and satisfaction of all involved.
- **Hoarding.** In 2010, Bucks County became one of 75 communities across the country to develop a Hoarding Task Force to reduce the distress of its elders, children, individuals and families, as well as their animals, who struggle with hoarding or the effects of hoarding. For non-emergency information and/or confidential referrals, contact Anne Irwin, Executive Director of the Bucks County SPCA at 215-794-7425 ext. 104, or Armand DiYenno, Deputy Director of the Bucks County Behavioral Health System at 215-444-2721.
- **Veterans Discount.** To date, nearly 700 Bucks County business have agreed to offer substantial discounts to anyone holding the Bucks County Veterans ID card, and more are signing up to participate each day. A list of participating business is available on the county website, www.BucksCounty.org or information about the program is available by calling 215-348-6209.
- **Bullying.** In April 2012 the Bullying Resource and Call Center was established to help schools, families and police better assist victims during the new age of cyber-bullying. The Bullying Resource and Call Center is a place you can turn to for direction and assistance in working with the victims and the bullies through the pain and teach healthy experiences and establish a game plan to dealing with the problems. Visit www.thepeacecenter.org.

How You Can Help Fight Budget-Draining Unfunded Mandates

For far too long, unfunded mandates by federal and state regulations have been a financial burden on townships like East Rockhill.

In fact, a new state report reveals a stunning statistic: more than 6,500 mandates have been imposed on Pennsylvania's municipalities and counties since 1982. Of those, some 800 directly impact townships.

Township residents are encouraged to contact our state legislators (Rep. Paul Clymer and Sen. Bob Mensch) to seek their support for funding these mandates.

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Thinking About a Generator?

Super-storm Sandy's destructive path caused many residents to think about installing a portable generator in case electricity service is interrupted.

You are reminded that an electrical permit is necessary before a generator can be installed.

While generators come in handy when severe storms knock out power, they need to be operated safely. You can't see or smell the deadly carbon monoxide produced by a generator and it can kill quickly.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, one generator can produce as much carbon monoxide as hundreds of cars.

Here are some tips for using a portable generator:

- Do not use indoors, or in a garage, basement, or shed.
- Use generators outside, away from windows, doors, and vents or any other opening in the house.
- Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide alarm.

Be Prepared for An Emergency

The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire depends on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy. The same is true for surviving other emergencies. Plan on having the tools and plans in place if disaster should strike.

Get a Kit of Emergency Supplies:

- Water, one gallon per person per day
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt to filter air
- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula, important family documents



Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency.

Be informed about what might happen.

Get involved in preparing your community (www.citizen Corps.gov)

For a more details, visit www.ready.gov



From the Pennridge Regional Police Department Swimming Prohibited at the Quarry

By Chief David Mettin

With the winter blues in the rearview mirror, spring and summer are around the corner. With the warmer weather approaching, the Pennridge Regional Police Department would like to remind everyone of the dangers of swimming at the Hanson Quarry in East Rockhill Township. The abandoned quarry has filled with water and may appear to be an inviting spot to swim over the hot summer months.

Police warn that the quarry can be a dangerous location as it is unsupervised, surrounded by jagged rock cliffs and there is no direct way to get rescue equipment into the area. The area is private property, is posted "No Trespassing" and is actively patrolled by the regional police on bicycle and foot. Over the past several years, over one hundred people have been cited and arrested for being on the property. Citations come with a fine and possibly a criminal record. Unattended vehicles parked in the area may be towed and impounded.

The Pennridge Regional Police Department wishes everyone an enjoyable and safe spring and summer and hope that everyone frequents our local municipal pools!

Have Your Next Outdoor Gathering at Markey Park



The Markey Park Picnic Pavilion is available for reservation for family or company picnics.

The non-refundable permit fee:

- for parties less than 25 people is \$35
- for parties more than 25 people is \$75.

If you have to cancel, the permit fee can be applied to an alternate date within a year.

A refundable deposit/security deposit of \$100 is required and is returned as long as the facility is left in the same condition as it is found.

The application to reserve the Markey Park Pavilion can be found on the township's website.

Please remember that all dogs must be on a secured leash and pet owners are expected to pick up after their pets.

GOLF DRIVING RANGE



Automated Token System

located at the
Willard H. Markey Centennial Park
1418 NORTH RIDGE ROAD, PERKASIE

- \$5 per token @ park
- Senior Rate \$4.50 /token
- Quantity Discount 7 for \$33
- 50-60 Balls per Token
- Sand Trap or Driving Tee
- Open Dawn to Dusk



Discount Tokens Available:
East Rockhill Township
1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasia
215-257-9156

Bring the family: Walking Path, Playground, Sport Fields & Pavilion

Township Launches Comprehensive Communications Plan

Hoping to increase communications with residents, the township has launched a comprehensive plan that combines traditional and online media.

“It’s important that residents have an open line of communications with the township,” said Manager Marianne Morano.

The township’s various communications channels include:

- This print newsletter that is delivered to all residents twice a year, in the spring and fall.
- An e-newsletter, which is delivered to subscribers monthly. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to subscribe.
- A Twitter account (@EastRockhill), which enables us to send out important information quickly.
- A Facebook Page.
- Local media through the Perkasie News-Herald, The Intelligencer, and the Bucks County Herald.



“We encourage all our residents to connect with the township through Social Media to stay up-to-date on breaking news about township activities,” said Morano. “It’s a quick, easy and FREE way to be an informed citizen!”



SIGN UP FOR AGENDA AND MINUTES VIA EMAIL

If you would like to have board agenda, approved meeting minutes and other timely news items delivered directly to your inbox, send an email to staff@eastrockhilltownship.org and put “Meeting Updates” in the subject line. Be sure to include your name and email address.

District Court Reports Decrease in Crime

By Charles W. Baum, Magisterial District Judge, 07-2-03

After an expansion of its court territory in 2010 led to a 50 percent increase in its caseload, the Perkasie District Court noted a decrease in criminal cases filed during 2012.

“Criminal cases filed in our court dropped 13 percent from the prior year,” reported Judge Charles Baum, who recently completed his seventh year as the area’s magisterial district judge. Total criminal cases filed by local and state police dropped from 473 in 2011 to 411 for 2012, but the number is still up substantially from the 303 filed in 2010.

Traffic cases dipped about five percent, from 4004 in 2011 to 3825 in 2012. Surprisingly, landlord-tenant cases dropped 27 percent, from 187 in 2011 to 136 in 2012, possibly showing a better local economy with fewer tenants behind on rent or facing eviction. In 2010, the Perkasie court was given an expanded territory, including Trumbauersville Borough and Milford Township. As a result, the court’s caseload increased by more than 25 percent in both 2010 and 2011. The Perkasie court also covers Perkasie and Sellersville boroughs, East and West Rockhill townships and the Bucks County side of Telford Borough. The district court is located in the Re-Max building at Seventh and Market streets in downtown Perkasie, across from the town clock.

The Perkasie court receives the majority of its citations and criminal complaints from four local police departments: Perkasie Borough Police, Pennridge Regional Police, Telford Borough Police and Pennsylvania State Police. For most citizens, this “grass roots” level of the judicial system is often the only court that they will ever encounter.

District judges handle cases in five basic areas: criminal, traffic, non-traffic (such as disorderly conduct, municipal ordinance violations, state game citations, school truancies), civil and landlord-tenant cases under \$12,000, and miscellaneous matters such as search warrants, marriages and emergency protection from abuse orders.

In criminal cases, judges advise defendants of their rights, set their bail and hold preliminary hearings to determine if cases should be bound over for county court.

The district court is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the court phone number is 215-257-5181.



District Justice Charles H. Baum



2013 Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Old Computer Collection Program

Many household products contain chemicals that when discarded contribute to the contamination of our environment by contaminating our soil, air and water. A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program provides the opportunity to reduce the amount of hazardous household chemical waste that is flushed down the toilet and kitchen drains, “disposed” of in the backyard, dumped into storm drains or simply disposed of in the municipal waste stream. These typical means of disposal are both hazardous to public health and unnecessary. Yet, it continues because individuals are frequently unaware that many useful products contain hazardous chemicals.

It is the consumer’s responsibility to use and dispose of household products safely. Certain household waste should be brought to community household hazardous waste collection events for proper disposal.

RID YOUR HOME AND GARAGE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE and that OLD COMPUTER SYSTEM or TVs: Participate in the Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Five collection events are scheduled in Bucks County:

June 10
Upper Bucks County
Area Vo-Tech School
3115 Ridge Road - Bedminster Township

July 27
Central Bucks School District –South
High School Campus
1100 Folly Road – Warrington Township

August 24
Bucks County Technical High School
610 Wistar Road - Bristol Township

September 14
Quakertown Area Community
High School
600 Park Avenue - Quakertown Borough

September 28, 2013
(ONLY ELECTRONICS WILL BE
ACCEPTED)
Lower Makefield
Corporate Center - South
770 Township Line Road - 2/10 mile
south of Stony Hill Road
Lower Makefield Township



Some Items Being Collected Include:

- Pesticides such as Chlordane, Sevin, DDT or Malathion;
- Toxic materials such as weed killer, mercury, pool chemicals, photographic chemicals, rust remover; and wood preservatives;
- Flammable materials such as oil-based paints, varnishes, paint strippers, thinners, gasoline, kerosene, and other solvents;
- Caustics such as oven cleaner, lye, and ammonia based cleaners
- Household rechargeable and button type batteries, as well as automotive type batteries.

The regional collection program consists of at least 25 collection days scheduled throughout southeastern Pennsylvania of which five are scheduled in Bucks County. At the five collection events being held in Bucks County old Computer Systems and any size TVs are also being accepted from residents.



DO NOT BRING (they will not be accepted):

LATEX PAINT (see below), Appliances (including air conditioners and dehumidifiers), Asbestos, Infectious or Biological waste, Explosives (ammunition), Gas Cylinders (greater than 20 lbs.), PCBs, Pressurized CFCs (greater than 1 lb.) Radioactive wastes (dispose of smoke detectors in the regular waste or contact product manufacturer for take back program), or Tires.

Whenever possible, material should be in its original container with an original, legible label.

Amounts up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds will be accepted at no charge to residents. This event is not open to business, industry or institutions.

Following are suggestions on how to handle some of the materials you may have around the house which may, or may not, be accepted as part of a household hazardous waste collection program.

LATEX PAINT: Air dry latex paint or mix with an absorbent (“oil-dry” or clay based kitty litter at the rate of about 1 gallon of paint to 2-4 cups of absorbent) and discard absorbed paint and paint can, with its lid off, in regular trash. EMPTY paint cans may be placed with recyclables in many municipa recycling programs (check with your hauler or municipal officials).

SMOKE ALARMS: Mail back to manufacturer, or dispose of in regular trash.

BAR-B-Q GRILL TANKS (20lb or less): Return to a tank exchange location, or bring to collection program.

TIRES: Contact nearest major tire retailer. (Anticipate a charge of \$5.00 to \$10.00 per automobile tire).

USED MOTOR OIL: Contact your local automobile repair shop.

Call the Bucks County Planning Commission at 345-3400 if you would like to receive additional information.

Sellersville FD Celebrating 125th Anniversary

The Sellersville Fire Department is celebrating its 125th anniversary in conjunction with the 275th anniversary of Sellersville Borough on June 15, 2013. There will be a judged parade in Sellersville starting at 1:00 pm showcasing fire trucks and companies throughout the region. Refreshments will be served in the grove behind the fire house immediately following the parade. Everyone is welcome to attend to celebrate these important milestones in local history.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE PERKASIE FIRE COMPANY

With its substation in the Township, the Perkasio Fire Company provides valuable, life-saving services to our residents.

Here are a few ways you can help support their efforts:

- **All You Can Eat Breakfast**

Sundays, June 17, September 16 and October 21
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The menu includes eggs, pancakes, waffles, cream dried beef, sausage, bacon, scrapple, home fries, assorted juices, coffee and more. They're also having a 50/50 drawing. The cost for breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 4-12. Kids 3 and under eat for free.



Our "All-You-Can-Eat-Breakfasts" are held on the third Sunday of each month, except in July and August.

- **Appliance and Scrap Metal Drive**

Saturdays, May 26, June 23, July 28,
August 25, September 22, and
November 24
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.



Do you have some old household appliances or other scrap metal lying around? Sure you do, don't we all? The Perkasio Fire Company will be accepting household appliances items for free and recycling them ecologically. Appliances with refrigerants (refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.) will be accepted for a small donation of \$30 to properly remove any harmful chemical. Drop off will be held at Schoeller's Inc., 419 S. 5th Street in Perkasio.

- **Perkasio Carnival** - June 26-30
- **Perkasio Community Day** - July 8
- **Annual Fire Co. Open House** - October 1

For more information on these events, visit our perkasiofd.org or call 215-257-6950.

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2012 Officer of the Year

Sergeant Rodney Blake was named the 2012 Officer of the Year Award at the Police Commission's February 2013 meeting. Sgt. Blake began his career with the department in 1992 and is a founding officer in the department. He was promoted to a Patrol Sergeant in 1996 and is a graduate of the 232nd Session of the FBI National Academy.

This year, Sgt. Blake planned and organized two Drug Take Back programs and took an active role in the Bucks County Crisis Intervention Team training program. Sgt. Blake conducts community education programs, such as a 4th Amendment presentation and seat belt awareness to high school students and safety talks for elementary school children all while making quality arrests in 2012 including arrests for assaults, drug possession, thefts and indecent exposure.



From the Desk of Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector



Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

The county and township real estate taxes were mailed on March 1 and are now due in face until June 30. After June 30, they are due in the penalty amount. The school real estate taxes will be mailed on July 1 and are due in discount amount by August 31 or the face amount until October 31, 2013. After October 31, the school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year.

If you would like to pay the school bills in installments, the first installment must be postmarked by August 15. The remaining two installment coupons will be 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 amount changes each year with respect to a calculation tied into the gambling revenue. 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 that I have made available on our township's website. Click on Living Here then Tax Collection which will bring you to my 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 myself or the Bucks County Board of Assessment at 215-348-6219.

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.

NO OPEN BURNING ALLOWED IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Township's Code Enforcement Department and Pennridge Regional Police would like to remind residents that the burning of trash and recyclable materials -- including leaf and tree waste -- is prohibited by Township Ordinance in compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations.



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