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Perkasie, PA 18944



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# EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

## Report

FALL/WINTER 2014

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As 2014 comes to a close, I want to extend thanks on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to two public servants who have served the residents of East Rockhill Township well over the years as they embark on new journeys.

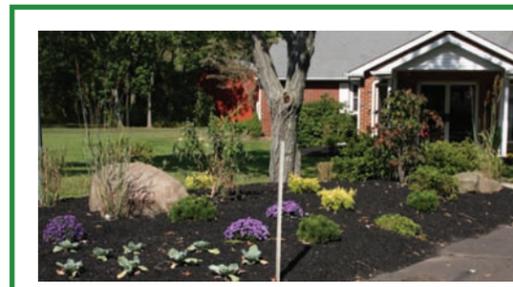
Chief Dave Mettin left the Pennridge Regional Police Department in September for an opportunity to lead the new Slate Belt Regional Police Department. In his 12 years with the PRPD, Chief Mettin was a strong, professional leader whose impact as a law enforcement officer will be felt for a long time. We wish him well in his new endeavor.

Meanwhile, Paul Clymer's incredible 34-year run as our representative in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is coming to an end. It's difficult to envision not having Paul as our voice in Harrisburg and a true friend to East Rockhill Township. Many of the state-related projects in the Township are the result of his hard work and dedication. Paul, we appreciate all you have done and wish you well in retirement.

Please note that we have made some important changes to our upcoming fall leaf collection. Finally, fall is budget season. We will continue to diligently make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely.

Thank you all for your support this year. On behalf of the Board and Township staff, we look forward to continuing to serve you in 2015.

David R. Nyman, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors



Thanks to Anthony Indelicato and his crew from Contemporary Gardens for their hard work in making the flower beds outside the Township building look so beautiful this fall.

**CHANGES COMING TO FALL LEAF COLLECTION**

Starting the week of November 4, our Public Works Department will begin leaf collection throughout the Township with a couple of important changes.

Unlike previous years, workers will not return later in the month for a second pass. Once leaves have been removed from a street, you won't get another chance. If you need to dispose of leaves after your street has been cleaned, please use the yard waste container behind the Township building.

We've also changed the order in which leaves will be collected by dividing the township into four sections.

See page 3 for the 2014 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule.

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](http://www.EastRockhillTownship.org)



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\*Source: American Cancer Society, Cancer Statistics 2012



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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

<b>October</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>21</b> Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, 7pm	<b>1</b> Cyber Monday	<b>4</b> Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7 pm
<b>22</b> Pennridge Regional Police Department Meeting, 7pm	<b>2</b> Sellersville "Winterfest"	<b>5</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>23</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>3</b> Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7 pm	<b>10</b> Board of Supervisors Work 7pm, unless posted otherwise
<b>24</b> Pennridge Community Center Fall Ball Dinner Dance with Gary Dee	<b>4</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>12</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>25</b> Perkasio FD Scrap Metal Drive	<b>5</b> Pennridge Community Senior Center, Holiday Dinner Dance with The Kevin Kelton Orchestra	<b>15</b> Perkasio FD Breakfast
<b>30</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>6</b> Perkasio Tree lighting, Menlo Carousel Open	<b>17</b> Board of Supervisors Regular 7 pm, unless posted otherwise
<b>31</b> Halloween	<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Day	<b>19</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>November</b>	<b>9</b> Board of Supervisors Work 7pm, unless posted otherwise	<b>25</b> Pennridge Regional Police Department Meeting, 7 pm
<b>2</b> Daylight Saving – Turn clocks back	<b>11</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>26</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>4</b> Fall Leaf Collection, Section I Election Day	<b>16</b> Hanukkah	<b>March</b>
<b>5</b> Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7 pm	<b>18</b> Board of Supervisors Regular 7 pm, unless posted otherwise	<b>4</b> Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7 pm
<b>6</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>21</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>5</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>8</b> Pennridge Community Center Fall Craft Fair 10 - 3	<b>25</b> Winter Begins	<b>8</b> Daylight Saving – Turn Clocks Forward
<b>10</b> Fall Leaf Collection, Section II	<b>26</b> Perkasio FD Breakfast	<b>10</b> Board of Supervisors Work 7pm, unless posted otherwise
<b>11</b> West Rockhill Historical Society "Historical Sites" By Shelby Splain	<b>31</b> Christmas, Township Closed	<b>12</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>11</b> Veterans Day, Township Closed	<b>1</b> New Years Eve	<b>15</b> Perkasio FD Breakfast
<b>13</b> Board of Supervisors Budget Meeting & Regular Meeting 6:30pm	<b>7</b> Pennridge Community Senior Center, New Year's Eve Party with The Blue Notes	<b>17</b> Board of Supervisors Regular 7 pm, unless posted otherwise
<b>13</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>January 2015</b>	<b>19</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>14</b> Pennridge Community Senior Center, Harvest Dinner Dance with the Blue Notes	<b>1</b> New Years Day, Township Closed	<b>25</b> Pennridge Regional Police Department Meeting, 7 pm
<b>16</b> Perkasio FD Breakfast	<b>7</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>26</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>17</b> Fall Leaf Collection, Section III	<b>8</b> Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7 pm	<b>April</b>
<b>20</b> Board of Supervisors Regular 7 pm, unless posted otherwise	<b>13</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>1</b> Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Meeting, 7 pm
<b>20</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>15</b> Board of Supervisors Work 7 pm, unless posted otherwise	<b>2</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>24</b> Fall Leaf Collection, Section IV	<b>18</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>9</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>26</b> Pennridge Regional Police Department Meeting, 7 pm	<b>20</b> Perkasio FD Breakfast	<b>14</b> Board of Supervisors Work 7pm, unless posted otherwise
<b>27</b> Thanksgiving, Township closed	<b>22</b> Board of Supervisors Regular 7 pm, unless posted otherwise	<b>16</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
<b>28</b> Black Friday, Township closed	<b>28</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm	<b>19</b> Perkasio FD Breakfast
	<b>29</b> Pennridge Regional Police Department Meeting, 7 pm	<b>21</b> Board of Supervisors Regular 7 pm, unless posted otherwise
		<b>22</b> Pennridge Regional Police Department Meeting, 7 pm
		<b>23</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm
		<b>30</b> Sellersville Fire Dept., Bingo 6 pm

**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:**

David R. Nyman, Chair  
Gary W. Volovnik, Vice-Chair  
Jim C. Nietupski, Member

**Administrative Staff:**

**Township Manager**  
Marianne K. Morano  
[manager@eastrockhilltownship.org](mailto:manager@eastrockhilltownship.org)

**Zoning Officer and BCO**  
Michael Gardner  
[inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org](mailto:inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org)

**Administrative Assistant**  
Gina Wooler  
[gwooler@eastrockhilltownship.org](mailto:gwooler@eastrockhilltownship.org)

**Public Works**  
Jeff Scholl, Director  
[works@eastrockhilltownship.org](mailto: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

**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 7:00 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 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 Feb, May, Aug, Nov 7 p.m., as needed

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

**2014 FALL LEAF SCHEDULE**

**SECTION I**

**Week of November 4**

Axe Handle Road  
Clymer Road  
Covered Bridge Road  
Richlandtown Road  
Stern Mill Road

Tower Court  
Tunnel Road  
Valley View Lane  
West Rock Road  
Willow Drive

Richhill Road  
Ridge Run Road  
Rocky Mount Drive  
Shale Circle  
Stone Edge Road  
Woodbridge Court  
Woodhollow Court

Evergreen Lane  
Fifth Street  
Firethorn Drive  
Firethorn Drive  
Greenleaf Circle  
Hillendale Road  
Lark Lane  
Owl Lane  
Pine Court  
Schwenkmill Road, East  
Schwenkmill Road, West  
(below Ridge Road)  
Seven Corner Road  
Sunnyside Lane  
White Road  
Winterberry Drive

**SECTION III**

**Week of November 17**

Azalea Court  
Blue Rock Drive  
Boulder Drive  
East Rockhill Road  
Hill Road  
Holly Drive  
Muskrat Road  
North Rockhill Road  
Old Bethlehem Pike  
(Ridge Road to East  
Rockhill Road)  
Park Avenue  
Pebble Court

**SECTION IV**

**Week of November 24**

Arrowwood Drive  
Blooming Glen Road  
Branch Road  
Bridgeview Drive  
Bryant Drive  
Buck Drive  
Campus Drive  
Cedar View Drive  
Creekview Road  
Deer Run Road  
Dublin Way



*Please follow these guidelines to ensure a successful collection:*

- Have your leaves in neat piles along road frontage by 7am on the first day of collection for your section. Again, once leaves have been picked up on your street, do not place leaves out for a second collection; we won't return to a street once the leaves have been collected.
- Do not include rocks, sticks, trash, grass, or other material with your leaves. This does damage to the collection machine, causing downtime and expenses for repairs.
- Township employees and/or equipment are not permitted to enter private property to remove leaves; make sure they are on the road frontage.
- Collection of leaves is weather dependent; updates to the schedule will be posted on the Township website, if necessary.

*Please call if you have any questions.*

**TRASH DISTRICT CONTRACT EXTENDED**

Republic Services has extended its contract for customers living in our Trash District.

The rates are:

- 2014: 21.32/month
- 2015: 21.96/month
- 2016: 22.62/month

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## PENNRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Mettin, chief of the Pennridge Regional Police Department, has left to pursue a law enforcement opportunity in Northampton County. We thank Chief Mettin for his 12 years of dedicated service.

The Pennridge Regional Police Commission has named Rodney Blake Officer in Charge while it conducts a search for a new chief. He is one of four remaining Pennridge Regional officers from when the department was formed in 1992.



Chief David Mettin

## PERKASIE FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Firefighters Recognized



On July 5, 2014 Rescue 26 assisted Station 17 with a marine rescue at Hansen Quarry. The Board of Supervisors recognized and commended the firefighters for placing themselves in harm's way to rescue a female subject from a cliff.

- Perkasie FD Battalion Chief 26 Shawn Eby
- Perkasie FD Captain 26 Joseph Ferrara
- Perkasie FD Firefighter John Yannaccone
- Perkasie FD Firefighter Timothy Yannaccone
- Haycock FD Deputy Chief 63 Gretchen Francis
- Haycock FD Marine Captain Daniel Suszko

## TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPDATE



Plans for a traffic signal at Route 313 and Mountainview Road have been submitted to PennDOT for review. As soon as the plans are approved we'll place the project out for bid.

## BRIDGE UPDATES



The Rockhill Road Bridge reconstruction has been completed. Bucks County officials and several residents joined us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 1.

Rehabilitation of the Schwenkmill Road Bridge began September 22 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2015!



## IT'S EASY BEING GREEN: GREEN TIP BY A FEW STEPS

### 4 EASY HOME WEATHERIZATION TIPS

- \* **Dodge the Draft(s)** – According to the U.S. Department of Energy, drafts can account for up to 30 percent of your energy use. Place a draft snake or rolled bath towel under a drafty door.
- \* **Change Furnace Filters** – It's easy to forget, but it's important to replace or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy demand.
- \* **Run Fans in Reverse** – Most people think of fans only when they want to be cool, but many ceiling units come with a switch that reverses the direction of the blades. The clockwise rotation makes it warmer: air pooled near the ceiling is circulated back into the living space – cutting your heating costs as much as 10 percent.
- \* **Turn Down Your Water Heater** – While many conventional water heaters are set to 140 degrees F by installers, most households don't need that much steam, and end up paying for it – in dollars and the occasional scalding burn. Lowering the temperature to 120 degrees F (or lower) would reduce your water heating costs by up to 10 percent.



### DON'T IDLE YOUR CAR!

Every moment you spend idling your car's engine means time spent needlessly wasting gas. For every two minutes a car is idling, it uses about the same amount of fuel it takes to go about one mile. It also means creating emissions, as well as rougher wear on your engine by incompletely burned fuel.



One of the ways the Toyota Prius is able to achieve such impressive fuel economy is by having a computer cut out idling automatically: when you aren't making headway, the gas engine shuts off. For regular cars, it doesn't make sense to shut off the engine at every stop sign.

Environmental Defense found that idling for more than 10 seconds wastes more gas than is required for startup. You should certainly kill it if you drive your student to the bus stop and are waiting for the bus or when your passenger has to run into the bank to cash a check.

Overall, idling Americans burn 2.9 billion gallons of gas a year, worth around \$78.2 billion, according to a recent report from Texas A&M. So the next time you think let me keep the car running while I run in the house and grab something, think "green" and take your keys out of the ignition.

### WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

East Rockhill Township is preventing stormwater pollution through a storm water management program. This program addresses storm water pollution from construction, new development, illegal dumping to the storm sewer system, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices in municipal operations. It will also continue to educate the community and get everyone involved in making sure the only thing that stormwater contributes to our water is... water. Stormwater flows across the ground and pavements when it rains or when snow and ice melt. Precipitation either seeps into the ground, runs off directly into streams, or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets.

Stormwater runoff causes problems when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, pet wastes, and other pollutants as it flows over land, or when it causes flooding, or erosion to stream banks. Stormwater travels along curbs, to a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems.

In East Rockhill, that water could contaminate Three Mile Run Creek, Lake Nockamixon and East Branch Perkiomen Creek. All pollutants that stormwater carries along the way empty into our waters because stormwater does not get treated!

Many East Rockhill sewers are marked with disks reminding us all to keep debris, even leaves, from being carried down the drains.

Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff.

For more information visit the Township's Storm Water Management Webpage.

### East Rockhill Township Contact Information

#### 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

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## WINTER IS COMING!

### A Reminder About Mailbox Placement

To minimize the possibility of damage to your mailbox during snow plowing operations, mailboxes should be installed so that the front of the mailbox is even with the back of the curb. This also applies to paving work during the summer season.

In areas that have no curbs, the face of the mailbox should be setback six inches from the edge of the blacktopped roadway.

It is important that residents realize that a certain amount of momentum is necessary for plows to move snow from the roadways. Township employees, as well as contracted snow removal personnel, make every effort to avoid hitting or damaging mailboxes.

However, accidents do happen. The Township will not assume responsibility for damage to mailboxes that are improperly located or for mailboxes that show evidence of prior post deterioration.

The Township does not recommend installation of any type of plastic mailbox or mailbox post. This material becomes brittle in cold weather and can be broken through contact with the weight of the plowed snow. The Township will only consider mailbox damage claims when the Township's plow came into physical contact with the mailbox or post.



## SNOW EMERGENCIES

When a snow emergency is declared by the Township Manager, it will be announced on the township website and advertised on our Twitter account (@EastRockhill).

During the emergency, it is illegal for any person to park a motor vehicle or allow one to remain parked anywhere on any snow emergency route. It is also illegal for any person to drive any motor vehicle on any such snow emergency route unless that vehicle is equipped with snow tires or chains or comparable equipment.

**Snow Emergency Routes include:** Buck Drive, Campus Drive, Deer Run Road, Fifth Street from Perkasio Borough Line to Schwenkmill Road, Pine Court.

**\*\* While in a Declaration of Emergency, vehicles left in the roadways may be towed at the owner's expense. \*\***

### TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN ITS SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

- All vehicles should be removed from Township roadways. In neighborhood streets, in addition to vehicles, please remove any basketball nets or trash containers in the roadway. This will allow the Township staff to safely and properly remove the snow from the roadways.
- During any snowfall or ice storm, all walking trails and sidewalks owned and maintained by East Rockhill Township, are considered "Low Level Priority" for snow removal. This means that once **ALL** roadways in the Township are open and clear of snow and ice, the Public Works Department will then remove the snow and ice off of walking trails and sidewalks. The goal is to have the trails, parking lots and sidewalks open within three (3) working days of initial snowfall.

### TIPS FOR KEEPING THE END OF YOUR DRIVEWAY CLEAR:

- The snow that is in front of a plow will unload as it passes a clear area. By clearing an area to the side of your driveway (to the left when standing in your driveway facing the street) where the plow will be traveling, will allow the snow to unload in the clearing instead of back into your driveway.

## Rockhill Auto Repair Inc.

Automobile Repair and Maintenance

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After Hours: 267-265-5886

www.rockhillauto.com

E-mail: service@rockhillauto.com

Mon-Fri 7AM to 6PM

Sat by Appointment



At 904 Ridge Road Sellersville, PA 18960

## Thank You

East Rockhill Township would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents. East Rockhill Township would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.

## Bringing Working Families Back from the Edge of the Cliff

by Senator Chuck McIlhinney (R-Bucks)

Despite spending billions of dollars on welfare programs each year, nearly 1.8 million Pennsylvanians still live in poverty. A large percentage of individuals below the poverty line are working families who are struggling to make ends meet. While public assistance programs offer an essential lifeline to many of these individuals and families, those who rely on these programs often face a daunting journey from poverty to self-reliance. For too many families, that transition away from welfare will never come.

Part of the difficulty in transitioning away from public assistance programs are how these services are structured. Rigid income guidelines and eligibility criteria make many of these services an all-or-nothing proposition. That means some low-income working families who receive a minor increase in income may risk losing access to vital services like child care and nutrition assistance. This phenomenon is known as the Cliff Effect, and its impacts can be devastating for families who face the prospect of going over that precipice.

In the most extreme examples, even a 10-cent-per-hour raise could mean the difference between a family receiving indispensable assistance, or being left to stretch their limited resources even farther just to provide basic needs. Worse yet, it might mean a single parent or lone caregiver no longer qualifies for child care services that allow them to work in the first place.

There is broad bipartisan agreement that our public assistance programs can be improved, but in the absence of a comprehensive examination of these programs, there are few readily available solutions. The Senate recently approved a resolution I sponsored that directs the non-partisan Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the Cliff Effect and the current makeup of public assistance programs. The committee will be responsible for studying the performance of these programs, as well as studying how other states address this problem. Within a year, the General Assembly will receive its findings and recommendations.

While assistance programs are often a lightning rod for criticism, we need to move past partisan talking points and address the real-life problems affecting families in every community in Pennsylvania. These programs were created with the intention of helping families who have fallen on hard times; my resolution helps us take the next step to help these families achieve self-sufficiency.

Sen. McIlhinney's local office is located at 22 S. Main Street in Doylestown.

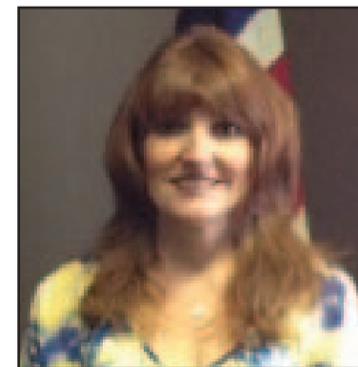
You can reach his staff at 215-489-5000.

For more information, visit the Senator's website.

[http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member\\_information/senate\\_bio.cfm?id=22](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/senate_bio.cfm?id=22).



## From the Desk of Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector



Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

All 2014 real estate tax bills have been mailed out to all property owners. Please contact me if you have not received your bills; I will be happy to email your or send you a copy in the mail.

The county and township real estate taxes were mailed March 1 and are now due in penalty until the end of this year. The school district real estate tax bills were mailed July 1 and are due in face until October 31, 2014. After October 31, the school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year. Final notices will be mailed out by November 15.

If you elected to pay the school real estate taxes by installment, the remaining two installment coupons were mailed in mid-September. The second installment is due October 31 and the final installment is due December 15. Please note that if you elect 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 state gambling revenue.

If you do not see this reduction on your school bill 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 at 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.

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](mailto:eastrockhilltax@comcast.net). I would be happy to assist you with any questions that you have.

## MOOD'S COVERED BRIDGE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Saturday, June 7, 2014, on a warm and sunny afternoon, Bucks County Covered Bridge Society hosted the 140th anniversary of Mood's Covered Bridge, located in East Rockhill Township. Held in conjunction with the Mood's Family Reunion. The event brought together forty-five members of the Mood's Family, local historical societies, community organizations, educational institutions and community leaders.

Proclamations to commemorate the occasion were presented to the Mood Family by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Bucks County Commissioners. Following the cake-cutting ceremony, John Mood presented a historical perspective of the bridge and its original owner, Samuel S. Mood.



### REMARKS BY JOHN MOOD

"Good Afternoon. As a great-great grandson of Samuel Sumstone Mood, the namesake of this beautiful covered bridge. I've been asked to say a few words on behalf of the Mood family, of which there are many present here today.

"Standing before us, crossing the Perkiomen Creek, is a Bucks County landmark, now 140 years old. It was named Mood's Bridge because the land was part of Samuel Mood's farm in 1874. His house and barn stood on the hill close to where the shopping mall (Glenwood Shopping Center) now resides. As I recall from when I was quite young, my father and grandfather used to drive around this area and point out different family interests, including the house of Samuel Mood. Of course when the Perkasio mall was built, that house was destroyed. But there are still a few parts of it that Harold Meyers has in his house from Samuel's original house.

"Samuel was born in 1829 on his father's farm in Tinicum and he farmed with father until he was 20 year old. At that time he left for the California gold rush of 1849. We don't know how he got out there but he got out there and Samuel was quite successful hitting gold.

On his return to Pennsylvania, he married Mary Catherine Fulmer and bought the land we are standing on. I gather that the money he had made in California came back here to Pennsylvania to buy this farm.

"Our family history started here in Bucks County in 1754 with Philip Muth (Mood), who emigrated from Württemberg, (Germany). They came here for many reasons; economic, the 100 year war and religious persecution.

"As I look up here at this bridge, I see something more than just a covered bridge that will get us from Perkasio and Blooming Glen road to wherever. It is really a symbol of all of the pioneering spirit that we have had in our family in the last 260 years that we have been here.

"I see this historic landmark as a symbol of many Bucks County Pioneers with which our family shares a common heritage and countless familial ties. Some of these related families which might be here today are: Afflerbach, Fretz, Fulmer, Godshall, Gross, Gruver, Heacock, Hellerick, Hunsberger, Klinker, Landis, Meyers, Moyer, Rittenhouse, Rosenberger, Souder, Swartley Sumstone and Trauger.

"Some of the oral history in the Mood family from my grandfather and his father, who was John Fulmer Mood and the son of Samuel S. Mood, says that when my great grandfather was 11, he helped build this bridge. He told my grandfather that when they were building the bridge that they hauled the stone from the Perkiomen Creek and some other places to build the abutments. They also donated timber and Samuel with his sons provided labor to build the bridge. It was a community project because not just one person could build the bridge.

"Without their courage, energy and personal commitment to farming and other endeavors, Bucks County might not be as successful a county as we are today. Thank you."

## Supervisors Notebook



A new barn roof has been installed on the barn at 1802 Ridge Road. The barn is used for Public Works equipment storage and was completed by KPI2 Contractors, the lowest bidder on the job. There was extensive damage to the rear barn roof, which had been covered by a tarp for a number of years, causing damage to the interior structure.

### CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Thanks to our dedicated open space revenue from the earned income tax, the township has purchased two more important conservation easements:

- 8.34 acres that preserves a blue heron nesting site along Three Mile Run Road
- 10.48 acres preserving the Ridge Road vista

To date, the township has preserved 1,052 acres with EIT funds.

### TAX FREEZE ON PRESERVED PROPERTIES

The Pennridge School District School Board and the Bucks County Commissioners have joined the Township Board of Supervisors in agreeing to freeze the real estate taxes on properties that have been preserved.

Owners of properties that have been preserved from development will continue to pay taxes, but not be subject to millage rate increases in the future.

The move is designed to encourage more property owners to consider conservation, according to Supervisor Dave Nyman.

"It's a real incentive to continue preserving properties," he said.

### PAVING PROJECTS COMPLETED

Our paving projects for 2014 have been completed. The work included our section of Old Bethlehem Pike, from Forrest Road to Holly Drive; Richlandtown Road from Sterner Mill Road to Clymer Road (final section) with help from our neighbors: Hilltown Township and Richland Township; Branch Road repair, between Route 313 and Cedarview Drive.

### HAVE YOU NOTICED?

A second "Welcome to ERT" sign has been installed on Branch Road, just past Callowhill Road. This year's sign was made possible thanks to Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority representative John Cressman donating his wage.

The tradition will continue in 2015 with Supervisor Jim Nietupski donating his wage.

Gary Volovnik continues to donate his Supervisor pay to the Township's General Fund, while Dave Nyman donates his salary to the Pennridge Community Center.

### 2015 BUDGET

Our first public review of the 2015 budget on September 9 included a proposed .60 mill increase in the real estate tax for the Infrastructure Fund, which pays for the outstanding debt on the reconstructed Rockhill Road Bridge. We are currently seeking 80 percent retroactive reimbursement from PennDOT for the \$1.1 million cost of the project. If PennDOT comes through, we expect to lower the proposed tax increase.

### NEW TRUCK ON THE WAY

In November, we expect to take delivery on a new five-ton dump truck, replacing a 22-year old vehicle. Our downpayment on the \$125,000 truck will come from the sale of several pieces of equipment. Loan payments will be made from state aid (liquid fuels).

The new truck will be used for snow plowing, leaf and yard waste collection, and road paving.

### POLICE SERVICES

As of the time this newsletter went to press, the Township continues to explore options for providing the best, cost-effective police services.

### FOOTBALL AT PHS

Starting September 26, all Pennridge High School varsity football games are being played on Helman Track and Field. We will monitor concerns related to the games, including traffic and parking, and make recommendations if necessary.

Phase 2 of the project, which may include a permanent concession stand, team rooms, and a weight room, will be reviewed by the Planning Commission.



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