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## Report

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

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**Great News!**

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has awarded the township \$847,275 in reimbursement toward reconstruction of the Rockhill Road Bridge.

The money will be used to partially repay a loan we took out in 2012 to pay for the work upfront. The reimbursement reduces our cost to about \$200,000.

We are grateful for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, DVRPC and to the many people who worked tirelessly to ensure township taxpayers did not have to bear the full burden of the reconstruction project. The bridge has been open for a while now, providing safe passage for motorists along Rockhill Road.



**SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION STARTS WEEK OF MAY 26**

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 2015 Spring Program is as follows:

- District I: Collection south of and including Ridge Road during the week of May 26
- District II: Collection north of Ridge Road during the week of June 1

(Check the township website for a map of the collection areas.)

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; once the truck passes it WILL NOT return.
- ✓ Leaves or grass clippings are NOT permitted; tree branches and brush only. No bags allowed.
- ✓ 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 diameter.
- ✓ Piles for pick-up are limited to four (4) feet wide, four (4) feet high, and six (6) feet long.
- ✓ Township employees and/or equipment are not permitted to enter private property to remove items.
- ✓ If you miss the curbside collection or have additional yard waste, the East Rockhill Township Drop-off Center is

continued on page 3...

**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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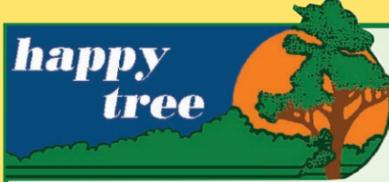
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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**MAY**

- 5 Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy Road Rally
- 5 Planning Commission, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11 West Rockhill Historical Society, 7 pm – Medical Missionary Trips with Dr. Paul & Betsy Moyer
- 12 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm
- 12 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 17 Perkasia Fire Department Breakfast; Sellersville Fire Department Breakfast
- 19 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 25 Memorial Day, Township Office Closed
- 26 Spring Yard Waste Collection South of and including Ridge Road, 7am; Park & Recreation Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 27 Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7pm
- 29 Pennridge Community Center – Old Fashioned Prom w/The Kevin Kelton Orchestra

**JUNE**

- 1 Spring Yard Waste collection North of Ridge Road, 7am
- 4 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 6 Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Perkiomen Creek Sojourn
- 9 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm
- 11 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 16 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 21 Perkasia Fire Department Breakfast;

- Father's Day
- 24 Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7pm
- 26 Pennridge Community Center – Picnic Dinner Dance w/ The Good Times Orchestra
- 27 Perkasia Fire Department Scrap Metal Drive at Schoeller's, 419 S Fifth St.

**JULY**

- 2 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 4 Independence Day, Township Office Closed
- 5 Pennridge Community Day
- 7-11 Sellersville Fire Department Carnival (Fireworks on the 10th)
- 9 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 14 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm
- 21 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 22 Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7 pm
- 31 Pennridge Community Center – Beach Party Dinner Dance w/The Blue Notes

**AUGUST**

- 6 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 11 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 13 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 18 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 22 Perkasia Fire Department Scrap Metal Drive at Schoeller's, 419 S Fifth St.
- 25 Park & Recreation Committee Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise

- 26 Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7 pm
- 28 Pennridge Community Center – Luau Dinner Dance w/The Good Times Orchestra

**SEPTEMBER**

- 3 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 7 Labor Day, Township Office Closed
- 8 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 15 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 20 Perkasia Fire Department Breakfast
- 23 Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7pm
- 25 Pennridge Community Center – Autumn Daze Dinner Dance w/The Kevin Kelton Orchestra

**OCTOBER**

- 1 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 8 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 13 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm
- 16 – 17 Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Halloween Night Hike
- 18 Perkasia Fire Department Breakfast
- 20 Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 pm unless posted otherwise
- 23 Pennridge Community Center – Fall Ball Dinner Dance w/Gary Dee
- 24 Perkasia Fire Department Scrap Metal Drive at Schoeller's, 419 S Fifth St.
- 28 Pennridge Regional Police Commission Meeting, 7 pm
- 31 Halloween - Trick or Treat!



*continued from cover...* **SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION STARTS WEEK OF MAY 26**

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 yard waste 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. If you have any questions, check our website (eastrockhilltownship.org) or call 215-257-9156.

**From the Desk of Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector**



*Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector*

Real estate tax bills from East Rockhill Township and Bucks County were mailed on February 27 and are now due in the discount amount by April 30 or face amount by June 30. After June 30, they are due in the penalty amount.

Real estate tax bill from the Pennridge School District will be mailed July 1 and are due in discount amount by August 31 or the face amount until October 31. 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 31. The remaining two installment coupons will be included with your original bill. The second installment is due on October 31 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 you are paying your taxes after December 15, no personal checks will be accepted. From December 16 to December 31 only certified checks will be accepted. All taxes will be liened to the Bucks County Tax Claim Office if not received by December 31.

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. 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 have not received your bill, please contact me for a copy as soon as possible. Pennsylvania law states that failure to receive the tax bill does not relieve taxpayers from their responsibility to pay the taxes due.

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 that you have.

**East Rockhill Township Contact Information**

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasia, PA 18944

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

**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

**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

**Road and Public Services:** Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, 215-257-9156

**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

**Zoning Officer and BCO**

Michael Gardner  
inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org

**Administrative Assistant**

Gina Wooler  
gwooler@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, Perkasia, 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

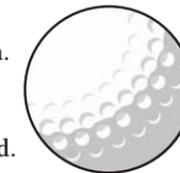
**Police Commission:** 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at 200 Ridge Road

**Driving Range Is Open**

Tokens are available from a dispenser at Markey Park, 1418 Ridge Road, for \$5 each.

Tokens can also be purchased Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Township Office, 1622 N. Ridge Road. You can buy them there for \$5 each or seven (7) for \$33.

Senior citizens can purchase tokens for \$4.50 apiece



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## Covered Bridges of Bucks County

Pennsylvania has often been called the Bridge State. Major rivers such as the Delaware, Susquehanna and Schuylkill River flow in a north-south pattern and the Appalachians cut across the state in a diagonal swath, creating a rugged terrain.

In the early 1800's agriculture and industrialization were moving rapidly throughout the Northeast. Farmers and industrialists needed bridges to move commerce, animals and people over the rugged landscape. During this time, Penn's Woods was a major lumber producer for the country; as a result the early bridges were made of wood.

Timothy Palmer designed the first recorded covered bridge in the United States. Built in 1805, it crossed the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. Judge Richard Peters, whose estate bordered the river at the bridge and was chairman of the bridge committee, insisted it be covered. The cover protected two essential features: trusses supporting the entire structure and the deck (or floor) that carries the live load. His insistence paid off because covering the bridge extended its life; unfortunately this bridge was destroyed by fire in 1875.

After the Civil War, iron bridges replaced the old-fashioned wooden bridges in most parts of the country. In Pennsylvania, a large number of beautifully engineered iron bridges were constructed, but the use of wood bridge construction was also continued. The height of covered bridge building was from 1830 to 1880. Pennsylvania had at least 1,500 wooden bridges representing all major truss designs. Today, Pennsylvania still has the most covered bridges in the country, 212 in 37 counties. Since 2000 that number has been reduced with the loss of 23 bridges.

Bucks County still retains 12 of its original 54 covered bridges. Most are located in Upper Bucks. Two are in East Rockhill Township -- the Mood's Covered Bridge and Sheards Mill Covered Bridge.

Take note of the inside walls as you drive or walk through these historic structures. They are called Town Truss and were designed by architect Ithiel Town and patented in 1820. He used a lattice design that fasten simple diagonally set planks with trenails or wooden pins into a crisscrossing truss system secured by the top and bottom chords.

This innovation eliminated the need for the large and expensive timbers used in the popular Burr Truss system of arches and streamlined the intricate, time-intensive labor of faceting mortise and tenon joints. Because of its simple design, the Town Truss could be constructed by local residents instead of engineers. Mr. Town reportedly licensed his design at one dollar per foot...or two dollars for those found not under license.

Bucks County is unusual because of the strict use of the Town Truss within the county and represents the largest number of Town Truss bridges anywhere in the state.

Covered bridges have been rapidly disappearing through neglect, flood, arson and progress. Solutions have been to rebuild, reinforce, bypass, relocate or install safety devices such as surveillance cameras, nighttime lights, sprinkler systems, and fire retardant treated wood. Also, fines for causing damage to the bridge have been increased to deter acts of vandalism.

If you want to learn more or want directions to visit these Bridges of Bucks County, go to Bucks County Covered Bridge Society Website ([buckscountycbs.org](http://buckscountycbs.org)) or pick up the Bucks County Covered Bridge brochure and Travel Ticket directions at the East Rockhill Township Building.

You are also invited to join the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society, a non profit group dedicated to helping protect, preserve, and promote these iconic structures. One perk is an exclusive Membership Tour of selected Bucks County Covered Bridges in the spring. Membership forms are on the website.

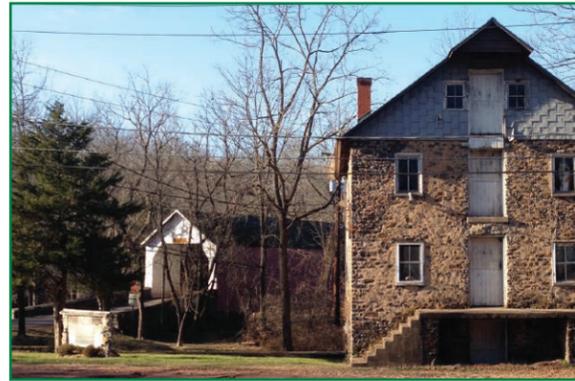
Watch for the handcrafted Sheard's Mill and Covered Bridge pewter Christmas Ornament coming out in late spring.

## Did You Know?

As elected officials, members of our Board of Supervisors are entitled to an annual salary of \$1,875 for carrying out their duties.

Your supervisors have chosen to donate their salary back to the township for specific uses:

- Dave Nyman donates his salary to the Pennridge Community Center.
- Gary Volovnik donates his salary to the General Fund.
- Jim Nietupski's salary is used to install "Welcome to East Rockhill Township" in 2015; this year the sign will be placed at Route 313 and Rockhill Road.



## From the Code Enforcement Department

Spring typically generates a number of inquiries from residents. Here are three of the most frequently asked questions:

- **Yard sales:** Residents are permitted to have up to four yard sales on your property per year, with a 30-day interval between and no more than three days in succession. Three 12-square foot signs are permitted to be erected two days before the sale (with the permission of the property owner where they are placed) and taken down the last day of the sale.
- **Livestock:** There is a minimum of three acres needed to raise fowl or livestock. If you have three acres or more you are allowed 100 fowl per acre or two livestock animals

(goats, horses, donkeys, alpacas, sheep, pigs, etc.) per acre. Buildings that house fowl and livestock need to be 100 feet from the road or property line. The square footage of buildings and paved areas (impervious surfaces) cannot total more than three percent of the total property area. Owners are expected to keep their animals under control as far as odor, noise and containment.

- **Domestic Pets:** Private ownership of a maximum of six domestic pets is allowed. Commercial businesses involving animals are under other specific regulations (contact the Zoning Officer).

*If you are uncertain of these or any other township regulations, call the Township Office before proceeding.*

## Welcome Rep. Staats

Craig Staats has replaced Paul Clymer as our State Representative. While his district office is in Quakertown, Rep. Staats will set up satellite office in Perkasio Borough Hall that will be staffed every Tuesday from 10am until noon.

### District Office

10 South Third Street, Quakertown, PA 18951  
Phone: 215-536-1434 • Fax: 215-536-1437

### Harrisburg Office

412 Irvis Office Building, PO Box 202145, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2145  
Phone: 717-783-3154 • Fax: 717-260-6521

## Volunteer Spotlight: William Baringer

Bill has served as an active volunteer with the Perkasio Fire Co. for 50 years! He joined the department in March 1965, serving in a number of leadership positions, including Assistant Chief twice (1970-72 and 1974-84) and on just about every committee. He continues to serve as both an Engineers and a Trustee for the department.

On February 10, the Board of Supervisors wholeheartedly approved a resolution thanking Bill for his "loyal and faithful volunteer service." We appreciate his hard work and dedication on behalf of residents and businesses throughout the entire Pennridge area.

*Bill Baringer receives a commemorative fire bell from his grandson Dylan.*



## FROM THE PENNRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Congratulations to Officer Harry Hallman

Officer Harry Hallman was presented with the 2014 Officer of the Year at the final meeting of the Pennridge Regional Police Commission in December.

Officer Hallman started his police career with the Sellersville department in 1987, which then combined with East Rockhill and West Rockhill to make the Pennridge Regional Police Department.

"Officer Hallman's influence has always been positive and he remains an expert in his field that has benefited those around



him," according to Officer-In-Charge Blake. "He epitomizes the concept of community policing that the residents in the community have come to expect from its local police."

### Welcome Officers Ruiz and Dean

Officers Pedro Ruiz and Richard Dean have transitioned from part-time to full-time officers with the Department starting at the beginning of 2015.

Officer Ruiz has been with the department since 2011 and is trained as a defensive tactics instructor and in crisis intervention.

Officer Dean started in 2014 and is trained in crisis intervention.

They are both welcomed additions to the department.

## Supervisors Notebook

**PAVING PROJECTS:** Our Road Crew will be undertaking several improvement projects this spring and summer, including an overlay of Three Mile Run Road from Park Avenue to Stone Edge Road and an overlay on Dublin Way. A grant opportunity is underway for improving Butler Lane.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you have the skills and the time, the township is looking to fill volunteer positions for Auditor (2) and on the Park and Recreation Board. Please contact Township Manager Marianne Morano for more information.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT APPROVED:** The Township has approved the Pennridge School District's Land Development Plan for upgrades at Helman Track and Field. Work to be completed this summer includes permanent restroom facilities, a concession, stand, team room, a weight room, a new scoreboard, and an auxiliary parking area.

**TREE DONATION:** Thank You to the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society for its donation of a cherry tree at our Municipal Building. It looks beautiful!

**2015 BUDGET:** We adopted the 2015 Budget with income and expenses totaling \$3,700,622 at our December 23, 2014 Special Meeting. A 1.5-mill general fund tax increase was needed for police services and a 0.6-mill infrastructure fund increase was needed for the Rockhill Road Bridge debt.

Our total Real Estate Tax rate is now 10.235 mills or approximately \$409 for the owner of a property assessed at the township average. It breaks down this way:

- General Fund (\$269)
- Fire Protection (\$40)
- Police Headquarters Debt Service (\$50)
- Infrastructure (bridge reconstruction) Debt Service (\$50).

**ORDINANCES ADOPTED:** We have adopted two significant ordinances recently.

One calls for a \$1,000 fine in addition to restitution for damaging either of our two covered bridges (Moods and Sheard's Mill) by not adhering to the posted height limits.

The other new ordinance requires all persons, partnerships, businesses and corporations to obtain a permit for any construction or development within a floodplain as mandated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

More information on both of these ordinances is available on our website.

**TRAFFIC LIGHT COMING:** we are looking forward to the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Routes 313 and 563 (Mountainview Drive) this summer, thanks to a grant from PennDOT. At the same time, Route 313 will be widened and a left-turn lane installed.

**WANT TO BE IN THE KNOW?** Sign up today to receive the latest township news and pertinent information regarding what is happening in our community. To receive monthly Enews all you have to do is go to [eastrockhilltownship.org](http://eastrockhilltownship.org) or visit the Municipal Building and provide us with your email address.

**NO HUNTING ON TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY:** We remind everyone that no hunting is allowed on Township open space. The law states no person shall hunt for, capture, kill or attempt to capture or kill, or aid or assist in the capturing or killing of, in any manner, any wild bird or wild animal of any description.

A conviction for violating this Ordinance is a fine of \$1,000, plus costs.



We recently acquired this 2015 5-ton dump truck that will be used for road work, snow removal, and fall leaf and spring yard collections. It replaces a vehicle that served the township faithfully since 1993.

**NEED TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICATIONS?** The Pennridge Regional Police Department take 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.

**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.

## DISTRICT COURT REPORTS 15 PERCENT DECREASE IN CRIMINAL CASELOAD FOR 2014

Following a 10 percent increase the previous year, criminal cases filed in the area's District Court in Perkasia decreased by 15 percent during 2014, according to Perkasia District Judge Charles W. Baum.

Total criminal cases filed by local and state police for the past year numbered 384, down from 454 in 2013 and 411 in 2012, according to Judge Baum, now in his tenth year as the local magistrate.

"The crime rate in our particular area fell more than double the rate in all of Bucks County, which is obviously a good thing," said the veteran judge.

Court statistics show all other areas of filings were down, including motor vehicle citations, non-traffic cases, landlord-tenant disputes, and civil cases for small claims matters under \$12,000 in value.

Baum said statistics showed a 40-percent decrease in traffic citations, down from 3,950 in 2013 to 2,363 this past year. Authorities said severe winter weather last year resulted in a drop in citations with fewer vehicles on the roads and nowhere to pull them over with all the snow.

State Police traffic citations also dropped 47 percent for the year, as many troopers were called out of the area in the fall for the Eric Frein search in the Poconos for nearly two months. Several local officers were also out for extended leaves during the past year, resulting in an average 30-percent drop in motor vehicle citations by the local departments.

Non-traffic citations for things such as disorderly conduct, truancies and municipal violations were down seven percent

from 386 to 359. Landlord-tenant filings were down five percent, while civil cases (including numerous credit card delinquencies) were also down a similar amount, possibly a sign of an improving economy.

The Perkasia court covers Perkasia, Sellersville and Trumbauersville boroughs, the Bucks County side of Telford Borough, as well as East and West Rockhill and Milford townships. The District Court is located on the first floor of the Re-Max building at Seventh and Market streets in Perkasia.

The court receives the majority of its citations and criminal complaints from four local police departments: Perkasia, Pennridge Regional, Telford and Pennsylvania State Police in Dublin. For most citizens, this "grass roots" level of the judicial system may be the only court they will ever encounter.

In criminal cases, district judges advise defendants of their rights, set their initial bail and hold preliminary hearings to determine if there is enough evidence to forward the matter to county court. There are 20 district judges in Bucks County and each judge also serves a week of on-call night duty every 10 weeks.

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



District Justice Charles H. Baum

## Have Your Next Outdoor Gathering at Markey Park

Located at 1418 N. Ridge Road

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

The permit fee for parties less than 25 people is \$35; for more than 25 people it is \$75. 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 and amenities 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.



### Changes to Our Recycling Service

The co-mingled and paper containers at our municipal Recycling Center were removed effective January 1 due to increasing costs and because trash haulers are required to provide curbside pickup of recyclables to their customers. They have been replaced by a second container for yard waste.

Residents who do not receive the service from their current hauler can piggy-back on the trash district contract and be part of Recyclebanks, a rewards program offered by Republic Services.

More information, including a list of trash haulers who operate in the township, is available on our website.

the Y  
WHERE YOU CAN HAVE FUN ALL SUMMER LONG  
DAY CAMP Begins June 22  
Financial Assistance Available  
UPPER BUCKS YMCA  
Quakertown • 215-536-YMCA • [www.ubymca.org](http://www.ubymca.org)

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## 2015 COUNTY OF BUCKS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 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:** Participate in the Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

### Five Paint and Chemical Only collection events are scheduled for 2015 in Bucks County:

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY May 9, 2015

Harry S. Truman High School  
3001 Green Lane, Levittown  
Bristol Township

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY June 27, 2015

Pennridge High School  
1228 N. Fifth Street  
East Rockhill Township

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY July 25, 2015

Central Bucks South High School  
1100 Folly Road  
Warrington Township

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY August 15, 2015

Quakertown Community High School  
600 Park Avenue (Rear Lot)  
Quakertown Borough

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY August 22, 2015

Bucks County Technical High School  
610 Wistar Road  
Bristol Township



#### NO ELECTRONICS:

Due to a new State Law, the five Southeastern PA Counties have been unable to secure a contractor for the used electronic part of the collection program. This is due, in part, to restrictions on how electronics can be handled and a drop in the scrap value of electrical components. All five counties will not be accepting electronics at any of the events this year.

**AT HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY EVENTS - ITEMS COLLECTED INCLUDE:** Pesticides such as Chlordane, Sevin, DDT or Malathion; Toxics 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; and household rechargeable and button type batteries, as well as automotive type batteries.

At a combinations event, items from either list above can be brought as long as it doesn't exceed 25 gallons or 220 pounds. This event is **not** open to business, industry or institutions.

The regional collection program consists of at least twenty-five collection days scheduled throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, of which five are scheduled in Bucks County.

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

Following are a couple of 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 your regular trash. EMPTY paint cans may be placed with recyclables in many municipal 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.



## IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

**B**ring Your Own Bag while out for a walk so you can pick up any trash that might be in your path. Every day many of us pass small and large bits of garbage or recycling when we are walking in our neighborhoods, but for practical reasons, don't act on our impulse to be good citizens.

This cleanup is especially important when you see debris in the street storm drains as they flow directly to our local streams and rivers. By picking up bits of garbage you can help the water quality of our local streams and keep East Rockhill beautiful!

### The Life Span of Commonly Discarded Litter

Item	Decomposition Time	Item	Decomposition Time
Glass Bottle	Approximately 1 Million Years	Disposable Diapers	10 – 20 Years
Plastic 6-Pack Collar	450 Years	Wool Clothing	One – Five Years
Aluminum Can	200 – 500 Years	Cigarette Butt	One – Five Years
Plastic Jug	70 Years	Cotton Rag	One – Five Months
Rubber Boot Sole	50 – 80 Years	Orange Peel/Banana Peel	Two – Five Weeks
Steel Cans	50 Years	Piece Of Paper	Two – Four Weeks
Leather	Up To 50 Years	Traffic Tickets	Two – Four Weeks
Nylon Fabric	30 – 40 Years	Rolled Newspaper	Two – Six Weeks
Plastic Film Canister	20 – 30 Years	Candy Wrapper	One – Three Months
Painted Wooden Stake	13 Years	Rope	Three – 14 Months
Degradable Plastic Bag	10 – 20 Years		



Source: PA Department of Transportation

### Top Three Reasons to Avoid Bottled Water

- 1. Pollution:** The entire life cycle of bottled water uses fossil fuels, contributes to global warming, and causes pollution. More than 17 million barrels of oil are required to produce enough plastic water bottles to meet America's annual demand for bottled water.
- 2. Cost:** Bottled water is about 3,000 percent more expensive per gallon than tap water.
- 3. Tap water:** \$0.02 per gallon; Bottled water: \$0.64 per gallon

**MYTH: Bottled Water is Purer than Tap Water:** Bottled water generally is no cleaner, or safer, or healthier than tap water. In fact, the federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of municipal drinking water.

Source: EPA.gov



### Keep Yard Waste and Personal Items Out Of Open Space

The township has received complaints about yard waste, including grass clippings, being dumped in open space, detention basins and waterways.

In addition to being illegal and subject to prosecution, such activity is harmful to the environment. Yard waste will be carried downstream during rainfall events to clog culverts and other facilities in the stormwater system. The resulting reduction in capacity of the stormwater system could cause flooding for you and your neighbors.

In addition, yard waste, as it decomposes, will harm the quality of the storm water within your watershed. We provide twice-a-year curbside collection and have a collection bin available year-round for disposal of yard waste.

However, neither option can be used for grass clippings. We suggest composting grass clippings and using the compost to enrich and condition your soil.

If composting is not possible, sweep up grass clippings before they enter a storm drain and put them out for regular trash collection.