

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

Report

Fall/Winter 2010

Fall is Budget Season

At the Board of Supervisors Work Session in April, Township Manager Anne Klepfer reviewed 2009's bleak financial results. The Township ended the year with a \$439,100 deficit across all government funds. The General Fund, which is responsible for Public Safety, Public Works, Sanitation, Debt Service and General Administration concluded annual business with a \$ 207,725 deficit.

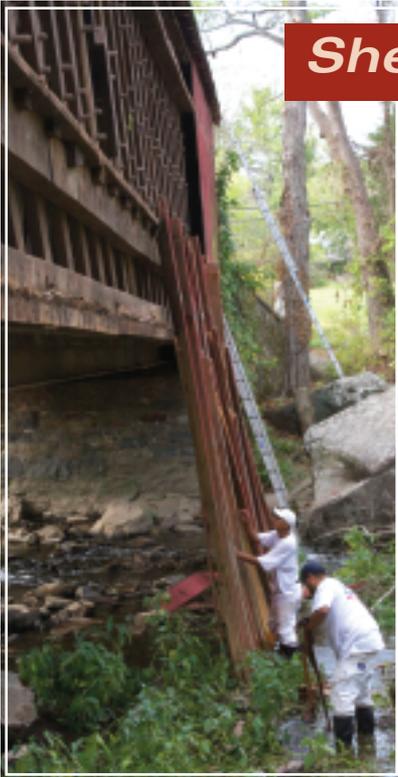
Crafting a strategic budget can be challenging even in times of economic prosperity, but it is downright frightening during an economic recession.

The challenge is to draft a budget that allows an organization to maintain infrastructure properly, keep up with technological advances, and improve efficiency while at the same time keeping capital and operating outlays proportionate to growth in revenues. The problem that nearly every municipality, including East Rockhill, is contending with is the fact that revenues are not increasing; they are decreasing drastically and townships are struggling to find alternative revenues to real estate tax rate increases.

Total general revenues available to East Rockhill dropped 22 percent from 2008 to 2009. During that same time, Real Estate Transfer

Continued on page 3...

Sheard's Mill Bridge Renovated



Thanks to lower than expected bids, Sheard's Mill Bridge is getting a more extensive makeover than planned.

Township officials hoped to repair some of the deteriorating walls of the bridge, plus apply a fire-retardant material. But because the bids came in under budget, all of the wooden walls will be replaced.

Situated on the border between East Rockhill and Haycock Townships, the bridge crosses Tohickon Creek just up stream from Lake Nockamixon. Built in 1835 the bridge was named after David Sheard, owner of the nearby mill.



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This Edition of The East Rockhill Township Report is published by the Board of Supervisors to keep you informed on timely information about the township and your local government.

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*Continued from front cover... **Fall is Budget Season***

Tax revenue declined by 40 percent, Earned Income Tax revenue declined by 6 percent and Local Service Tax revenue declined 10 percent.

While the real estate transfer tax appears to have bottomed out in 2009, the other revenues have continued to drop in 2010 and are projecting even lower for 2011.

With a loss of nearly a half million dollars in operating revenues, East Rockhill is confronted with the challenge of reconciling a drastic loss of revenues with increases in expenditures such as electricity, gasoline, oil, asphalt, healthcare, insurance premiums, and pension plans.

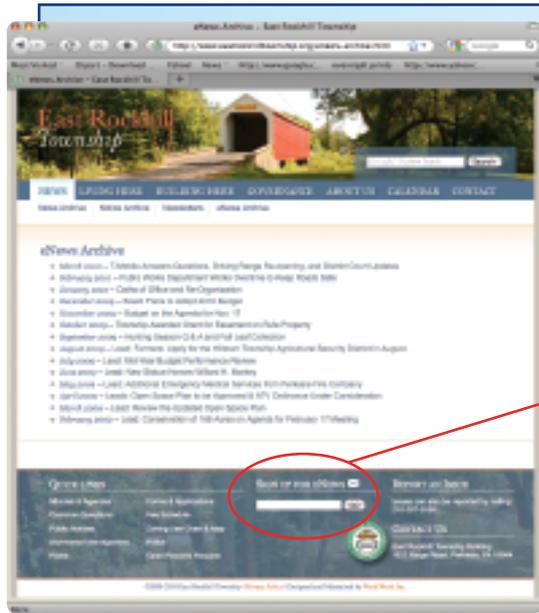
The other challenge municipalities have is recognizing the impact that so-called one-time “bonus” revenues have on their financial bottom line. In 2010, East Rockhill Township Supervisors were very successful in bringing in significant revenues from cell tower projects. The Township added to monthly rents from towers located on municipal properties. However, much of the revenue was from one-time, upfront fees that will not re-occur and cannot be included in the 2011 revenue projections. In 2010, these “bonus” revenues so far have offset the losses to traditional revenue such as the Earned Income Tax. They cannot, however, help balance the 2011 budget.

Cutting back expenditures to the bare bones and estimating revenues in an optimistic fashion leaves no margin for error or emergency. The services residents want and deserve come with an operating cost; ignoring aging equipment and infrastructure is risking a future crisis.

This fall, members of the Board of Supervisors have their work cut out for them. Developing a realistic and prudent budget will never be more challenging than now.

Please sign up to receive our e-newsletter and check the township’s website (www.eastrockhilltownship.org) for updates on the budget development process.

A budget will be advertised for public comment following the November 16, 2010 Regular Board Meeting. A public hearing will be scheduled for December 14 or December 21 prior to adoption of the budget.



Sign up for Our eNews

We will continue to publish this printed newsletter twice a year (in spring and fall). However, for more current news, please encourage your friends and neighbors to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

Delivered once a month to your inbox, our e-newsletter contains the most up-to-date information about township issues and community events. Just go the township home page (www.eastrockhilltownship.org) and click in the button to register.

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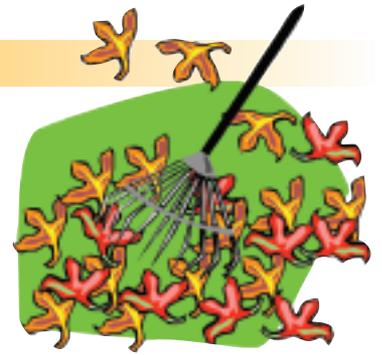
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2010 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule

East Rockhill Township Public Works Department will begin its annual leaf collection in November. Pickup dates vary by location. Here's the schedule:

- **South of Ridge Road:** Week of November 1-5
- **North of Ridge Road and west of Schoolhouse Road:** Week of November 8-12
- **North of Ridge Road and east of Schoolhouse Road:** Week of November 15-19



Please understand that we set our schedule for a very good reason: the area south of the Ridge Road is generally the less-densely forested section of the township. Because there are not as many leaves to collect, it is the most effective use of our resources to start there. We appreciate your understanding.

Remember, leaves should be raked into neat piles along property road frontage no later than 7 a.m. It is okay to tarp them to prevent wind disturbance. No registration is required.

Branch Road Bridge Closed

Repairs to the Branch Road Bridge over the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek began in mid-August, 2010. Weather permitting, the work will be completed in early February.

Questions about the project should be directed to the Bucks County Department of Roads and Bridges at 215-345-3950.



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Leash Law Now in Effect

Be prepared to face a hefty fine if you let your dog run free in the Township.

In September, The Board of Supervisors approved a new leash law with penalties of up to \$1,000 for any unleashed pets.

In addition to numerous complaints, "we have had two people that were physically harmed by dogs attacking them in the park," said Township Manager Anne Klepfer. "A lot of people have been saying they are scared and intimidated by loose dogs."

While signs posted through the Township park system have advised people to keep their dogs on a leash, Klepfer said too many people ignored them.

While compliance was expected as a courtesy, police can now issue citations to violators.

Police will be patrolling the park at random intervals to ensure compliance with the new ordinance, however residents who see a loose dog should call the Pennridge Regional Police Department's non-emergency number at 215-257-5104.



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

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

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

Engine 76 Added to Perkasie Fire Company

Members of the Perkasie Fire Company officially presented East Rockhill Township Supervisors with the newest addition to their fleet, Engine 76.

The 2010 Peirce truck is a custom designed 2,000-gallon-per-minute pumper truck. It will replace its outdated predecessor, the 1974 Mac truck currently employed by the township.

The new Engine 76 will be housed at the station behind the township building, and will be used mainly for calls specifically within East Rockhill Township.



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Employee Spotlight: Five Questions with Mike Gardner

Since joining the Township staff 20 years ago, Building Code Official and Zoning Officer Mike Gardner has seen a remarkable change in the scope of his responsibilities. From buildings booms and busts to constantly changing regulations and demanding certifications, the demands of his job have taken more of a professional turn. It's no longer enough to know how to swing a hammer or install a circuit breaker to be a building inspector.

Born in Philadelphia and raised in Glenside, Montgomery County, Mike began his career in code enforcement with Abington Township in 1980. Eight years later, he joined Code Inspections, Inc., a third-party agency that assigned him to various municipalities throughout Bucks and Montgomery counties.

In August of 1990, during a boom in the housing market, Mike came to East Rockhill Township and found a home as Building Inspector.

Q. What was East Rockhill like when you arrived here in August 1990?

A. It was a small, rural community about to experience tremendous growth. Since then, development has increased significantly with so many new subdivisions. One of my first assignments was the back phases of the Ridge Run development.

Q. What are your duties with the Township?

A. As the Building Code Inspector, I review building permit applications for compliance with all building codes. I send out correction notices, issue building permits, and follow up with actual on-site inspections.

My job as Zoning Officer requires enforcement of zoning code regulations as they relate to land uses, new construction, additions and alterations. I also attend Zoning Hearing Board meetings for variances and special exceptions.

Q. How has the nature of your job changed over the last 20 years?

A. With the enactment of Act 45 (the Uniform Construction

Code), my job has become much more sophisticated. There is much more continuing education and certifications required. I recently had to take a class so I can enforce the sprinkler requirements that will go into effect for new residential construction in 2011. Solar energy is another topic I have to learn about as it becomes more popular. It's a never-ending learning process...keeps my mind sharp at my age.

Q. With construction down, how do you stay busy these days?

A. Property maintenance is an ongoing issue, especially with people abandoning their houses. We have problems with high grass and stagnant water in swimming pools on properties where people have just walked away.

Plus we're seeing more property alterations. Rather than moving, people are fixing up their houses, putting on additions and such. There's plenty for me to do.

Keeping up with the UCC is also a challenge. It changes every three years and your certification can be pulled if you're not doing the job correctly.

Q. What should Township residents know about your job?

A. I'm an easy guy to get along with. I try to put myself in their position and treat them the way I want to be treated. I understand that people don't like to come in and get a permit because of the regulations and fees involved. I try to work with them, to help them through the process.

It's better to call us and ask for permission rather than forgiveness. If you have any doubt, call. It's hard to go on a person's property and tell them what they can and can't do. Recently, I had to tell a resident to move a small shed on his property. He put it out front and the regulations say it had to be in the back. Better to call us and ask, "Do I need a permit?" than to find out later you do.



Mike Gardner, left, checks out plans for a log cabin under construction.

Township Boards and Commissions Need Volunteers

East Rockhill Township has vacancies on the following Boards and Commissions:

Park and Recreation - two vacancies

Planning Commission - one vacancy

UCC Appeals Board - one vacancy

Zoning Hearing Board Alternate - one vacancy (*applications under consideration*)

Interested applicants can download a volunteer application and can either e-mail the submitted form to Township Manager Anne Klepfer, or can mail it to the township offices at:

East Rockhill Township
1622 Ridge Road
Perkasie, PA 18944

It is also suggested that interested volunteers attend a few regular monthly township meetings.

Township Preserves Another Property

The township has reached an agreement of sale to preserve nearly 56 acres of environmentally sensitive property on W. Rock Road.

The purchase price will be split between the Township and Bucks County. East Rockhill will use funds generated by the

Earned Income Tax to pay for its share of the deal.

While technically not part of the Quakertown Swamp, the property includes some of the same characteristics, including nest areas for the Great Blue Heron.



Building Permit Issued for Cell Tower on Old Bethlehem Road

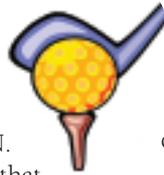
The Township has issued a building permit for a new cell tower on mostly wooded private property along Old Bethlehem Road, north of Park Avenue.

Construction should begin in October. The Tower will service AT&T and Verizon. Customers should have fewer dropped calls in the Old Bethlehem Pike and Route 309 corridor.

New Golf Tokens at Markey Park Driving Range

The new golf dispenser does not jam, but it does require new tokens!

Driving range staff will exchange official East Rockhill Township driving range tokens for the new tokens needed for the ball dispenser during park hours of 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Exchanges can be made during business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the municipal building at 1622 N. Ridge Road. Tokens make great stocking stuffers for that



special golfer!

New tokens cost \$5 per token, and each token can be redeemed for a large bucket of golf balls at the Markey Park Driving Range. Senior citizen discounted tokens are available to purchase at the East Rockhill Township Offices.

Please remember to leave empty buckets at the ball dispenser so other people can enjoy the driving range.

Perkasie Fire Co. Scrap Metal Fund Drive

The Perkasie Borough Fire Company is accepting household appliances and scrap metal as a recycling fund drive. Appliances with refrigerants (*refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.*) will be accepted with a \$30 donation to the fire company.

Collection will be on the fourth Saturday of each month through November, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Schoeller's Inc., 419 S. 5th Street Perkasie (across from Menlo Park).

For more information, please call 215-257-5131.



Opinions Needed for Bucks County Comprehensive Plan

Now is the time to let your opinions be known! Bucks County is updating the County Comprehensive plan and is asking residents, business owners, and municipal officials to take a few minutes to participate in their survey.

You will be asked approximately 9 questions, including "What do you like most and least about Bucks County," and "What do you believe are the most important issues facing Bucks County?"

Visit www.buckscounty.org to participate in the survey.

East Rockhill Now Accepting Credit Card Payments

Over the years, the Township has received countless requests from residents who want to pay for permits, applications, and utility bills via credit card. We understand that many residents and people doing business with East Rockhill Township like the convenience and the ability to build up their rewards points.

Therefore, residents and customers of East Rockhill Township will be able to use the following credit cards over the counter or via telephone to make payments to the Township:

- Discover Card
- MasterCard
- American Express Card



Online Bill-Pay

The Township is also in the final stages of developing an online bill-pay option that will accept credit cards. This service is expected to launch this summer, and more information will be available within two weeks on our website.

Residents should keep in mind, for the online credit card convenience, there will be a convenience fee charged by the credit card companies that will be clearly indicated and must be approved by the card owner.





Single-Stream Recycling

Did you know that many trash haulers offer single-stream recycling? Single-stream recycling allows residents to mix all recycled materials together in one container for disposal.

Typically, single-stream recycling services include aluminum beverage cans and tin food cans, clear, green, or brown glass jars and bottles, plastic containers 1-7, newspapers and catalogues/magazines, junk mail, and flake board.

Check with your hauler to determine what can be co-mingled; you may be able to recycle more and throw away less!

Recycling Drop Off Center Hours Changed

In July, the Board of Supervisors amended the Solid Waste Ordinance to change the hours of operation and list materials accepted at the East Rockhill Township Residential Recycling Center.

Effective immediately, the center will be open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on Sunday 6 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The center is for residential use only of approved materials as listed in Ordinance #254. Violators are subject to fines and penalties.

Items that can be recycled:

- Aluminum cans and foil
- Bi-metals cans (steel and tin)
- Glass (clear, brown, green and blue bottles and jars)
- Plastic (with #1-#7 stamped on bottom)
- Plastic grocery bags (with #2 and #4 symbols)
- Newsprint (newspapers, supplements, mail fliers, advertising and magazine sections)
- Magazines and Catalogs
- Mixed Paper
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Paperboard
- Brown paper bags
- Yard waste – leaves, branches and shrubbery (but not grass clippings, stumps, roots, firewood or logs greater than 4.5-inch caliper.



Reminder to Businesses

Commercial Recycling

Under the terms of state Act 101 of 1988, commercial businesses, including apartment buildings with four or more units, in East Rockhill Township are required to recycle and report the quantities collected to the state Department of Environmental Protection.



What Must Be Recycled?

The law requires the following items be recycled:

- High grade office paper, which includes white and colored paper, envelopes, computer paper and reports with covers
- Cardboard and corrugated paper
- Aluminum. This generally means cans. Our community includes anything made of metal.
- Leaf Waste

Materials should be stored separately until picked up.

Why Recycle?

First...it's the LAW. But there are several appealing reasons. Why send something to a landfill if it can be reused? Recycling saves money and resources. Reducing trash lowers disposal costs and maybe you could get rid of the dumpsters. Now that's appealing.

There are companies that buy recyclable material...proving the old Pennsylvania Dutch adage, "Some man's trash is another man's deck plank."

Recycling for commercial businesses is the law and it makes good business sense. As waste disposal costs continue to rise, recycling can reduce your waste volume, and may save you money.



Hunting Season Q & A

Hunting season is here and our phones have been busy as we answer questions from non-hunters wondering if what they see or hear is permissible. Here are the answers to a few of the most frequently asked questions.

How close to my home can hunters discharge a firearm?

A 150-yard (450 ft) safety zone surrounds all buildings, parking lots, and picnic areas.

Is hunting allowed on township-owned lands?

Ordinance No. 151 prohibits hunting and the discharge of

firearms in township parks and in preserved township-owned open space.

Is hunting permitted on Sundays?

No. State law makes hunting on Sundays unlawful except on state-regulated game lands.

Who can I call for more information?

For more information, call the Southeast Regional office of the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 610-926-3136.

Make Your Home The Solution to Stormwater Pollution

A homeowner's guide to healthy habits for clean water

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants such as pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!



Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.



- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden

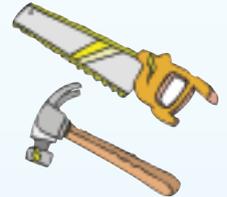
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from



blowing or washing off your yard and into local streams and lakes. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints.



- Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps



Holiday Fire Safety Tips



Natural Christmas Trees

- Before buying a tree, test for freshness by tapping the base of the tree on the ground or pulling lightly on a limb. If many needles fall off or needles can be easily pulled off, the tree is too dry.
- Keep your tree as fresh as possible by placing the stump of the tree in a bucket of water outdoors until you are ready to decorate. Before setting up the tree inside the house, trim two inches off the stem diagonally so it can absorb water. Mount the tree securely in a large, wide based reservoir stand and add water each day to ensure the tree is well watered.
- Choose a suitable location for your tree, ensuring that it is well away from heating sources and clear of all exits.

Artificial Trees

Though fireproof, metal or aluminum trees are electrically conductive and cannot be decorated with any electrical product. The metal can cause a short and a fire, or simply become "hot" or deliver a nasty shock. Aluminum trees can be illuminated by a colorful spotlight placed a safe distance from the tree, as set out in the manufacturer's instructions.

Decorations and Presents

Christmas wrapping and decorations can be highly combustible, and should be kept away from heat sources such as candles, lamps, heaters, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. Gift wrap and boxes should be collected as soon as gifts are opened, and discarded with the garbage or recycled where appropriate.

Indoor Lights and Electrical Decorations

- Use only lights that have been tested and labeled by an approved testing laboratory.
- Examine light strings, cords, plugs and receptacles before using. Discard any that have frayed cords, cracks in the lamp-holders, or loose connections.
- Do not overload electrical circuits or extension cords, and follow instructions about connecting light strings to extension cords.
- Never place furniture or other objects over electrical cords; never run electrical cords under a rug. With a rug covering a cord, any damage the cord may sustain can go unnoticed.
- Always unplug the light string before attempting to replace a bulb. Ensure the voltage and/or wattage marked on the light set is compatible with the replacement bulb. This is especially important with mini-lights as they come in different voltages.
- Avoid using timers on indoor lights. Tree lights could turn on when no one is at home and create a potential fire hazard. Always turn Christmas lights off before leaving home or going to sleep.

Holiday Parties

- Decorate with flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Have large, fireproof, non-tip ashtrays available for guests who smoke. Empty ashtrays regularly into a metal container; after the party, check inside and under upholstery and trashcans for

misplaced cigarette butts that may be smoldering.

Outdoor Lighting

- Use only lights that have been tested and labeled by an approved testing laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
- Turn off the electricity to the supply outlet before working on outdoor wiring.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground and clear of metal objects. Use insulated tape, not metal nails or tacks, to hold strings of outdoor lights in place. Be careful not to tape the cords either over, under, or along metal eaves troughs.
- Run cords above ground, keeping them out of puddles and snow.
- Tape all plug connections with plastic electrical tape to make them as watertight as possible. To prevent moisture from entering bulb sockets, bulbs should face the ground.
- When using spotlights or floodlights to light your home or trees, ensure they are marked for outdoor use to withstand snow and rain. Indoor floodlights should never be used outdoors.

Candles

Never use lit candles as decorations on Christmas trees. Place candles in non-tip candle holders and ensure they are well away from Christmas tree or other combustible materials. Never leave lit candles unattended and ensure that they are always out of reach of the children.

Continued on page 12...

Casual Dining

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Holiday Fire Safety Tips...Continued from page 11.

Matches and lighters are tools not toys! Store them up high where children can't reach them.

Fireplaces

Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and have it cleaned if necessary. Always use a fire screen, and burn only material appropriate for fireplaces. Burn only wood - never burn

paper or pine boughs in a fireplace as the burning particles can float up your chimney and onto your roof or into your yard. Never use flammable liquids in a fireplace. Because ashes may rekindle, never store them in your home. Always remove ashes from your fireplace in a metal container.

Fire Safety in the Kitchen

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

12 Tips for Christmas

1 Make sure your home is equipped with at least one working **smoke detector** on each level of your home. Have your family implement and practice an emergency home fire escape plan.

2 Ensure that your **home heating appliances** (furnace, gas fireplaces, wood burning appliances, chimneys) are all in good clean, working condition.

3 **Carbon monoxide** is a silent and deadly killer; know how to identify the symptoms of carbon dioxide poisoning and install a CO detector in your home.

4 With the joyous season upon us again, use sound judgment when installing your **Christmas lights**. Make sure you are using UL or CSA approved units only, do not overload circuits, and make sure all cords and outlets are in good condition.

5 When choosing your **fresh Christmas tree**, ensure that it does not have any loose needles or brown spots. Keep it as fresh as possible by re-cutting the base at an angle before

placing it in the stand. Check the water level daily to ensure that it is well watered. Fresh trees are highly combustible especially when they are dry so keep it away from any open flame or heat sources. If you use an artificial tree, ensure that it has had a flame-retardant treatment.

6 **Gift wrapping paper and Christmas gift boxes** are highly combustible. Make sure all such materials are at least three (3) feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles, portable heaters, lamps, and all wood burning appliances. Wrapping paper is highly flammable and burns at extremely high temperatures because of the additives in the paper. All wrapping papers and boxes should be discarded in the garbage or recycled. Do not burn in the fireplace or wood-heating appliance.

7 Use **candles** with extreme care; never leave lighted candles unattended especially with children around. Place candles in non-tip and noncombustible holders and ensure they are well away from the Christmas tree, Christmas decorations or other combustible materials.

8 When cooking for the holiday season, practice **kitchen fire safety** with your family. Do not leave cooking food unattended especially when cooking with

oil or fat. If grease or oil ignites, remember to cover the container with a lid and turn the heat source off. You should have an ABC fire extinguisher available in your home.

9 Careless **smoking** remains a serious holiday fire hazard. Ensure that all cigarettes and matches are completely extinguished before discarding. Place all butts and matches in a metal container or dampen with water before discarding. Before going to sleep, check all furniture and garbage for smoldering embers.

10 **Outdoor Christmas lights** are exactly that: for outdoors use only. Do not use them in your residence, especially on your tree or near any combustible materials. These lights generate too much heat for indoor use.

11 Prior to going out or going to sleep, make sure that you shut off all **indoor electrical decorations**. This will minimize the potential for fire to occur.

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



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Winter Weather Guidelines

Street parking is prohibited during snow removal. It is unlawful to park, abandon, or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway, or adjacent right of way, during a storm or during the 48-hour period following cessation of precipitation or any other period when snow removal or plowing is being conducted. Winter storm definition: any precipitation accumulation to a depth of one-inch or more.

Abandoned vehicles. Any vehicle parked or left unattended on any public street, road, or highway, or its adjacent right of way during the 48-hour period following a winter storm shall be deemed abandoned, and any township police officer or road worker may arrange for the vehicle to be towed and stored at an approved storage lot. In addition to the fine (see penalties), the owner of the vehicle will be responsible for the towing and storage charges.

Responsibility for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 12 hours after snow has stopped falling.

Fire hydrants. Every person in charge or control of any building or lot on which a fire hydrant is located is required to uncover the fire hydrant to the extent that at least one half of the hydrant is visible from the street.

Depositing of snow and ice prohibited. No person shall deposit any snow or ice next to a fire hydrant or on any sidewalk or roadway.

Penalties. Any person who shall violate any provisions of the snow removal ordinance could be fined up to \$300 for each day the violation continues.

Obstructing of sidewalk, street or highway is prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to park, or place and allow to remain, any object (basketball goal) other than a motor vehicle in the street or highway from November 1 of each year through April 1 of the following year. The Township has the authority to remove and impound any non-motorized object or vehicle found in the street or highway or on the sidewalk. In order to reclaim an object removed, the owner shall pay removal and storage costs.

Winter Driving Tips

- * Always wear your seat belt, drive at a reduced speed, and always drive defensively.
- * Always turn on your headlights during inclement weather.
- * Give yourself plenty of time to get to where you're going during the winter.
- * Keep your gas tank full.
- * Maintain at least twice the normal following distance when driving on snow or ice.
- * Rear-end collisions account for most winter crashes.



- * Periodically check the level of your windshield washing fluid and only use fluids containing an anti-freeze solvent. Keep an extra container of windshield fluid in the trunk.
- * Clear snow and ice from your windows, mirrors, hood, headlights, taillights, and trunk before driving.
- * Keep the following items in your vehicle during the winter: an ice scraper/snow brush, de-icer, small snow shovel, warning devices (flares or triangles), bag of salt or sand, flashlight, battery cables, tire chains, paper

towels, and a blanket.

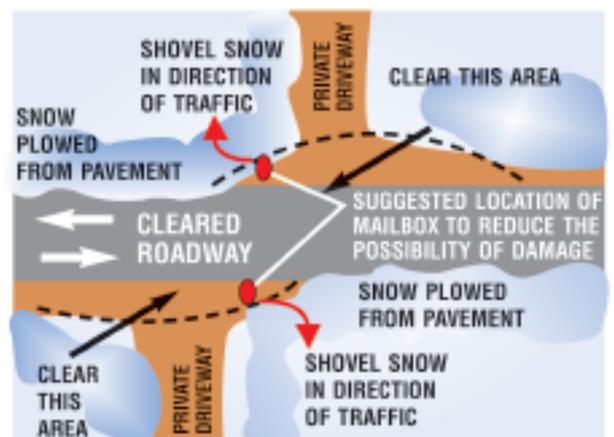
- * Maintain a distance of at least six car lengths behind a snow plow.
- * Do not pass a snow plow because the plow blades are wider than the truck.
- * Car pool or use mass transit whenever possible during the winter. Fewer cars on the road make travel safer during a snowstorm and expedite snow plowing operations.
- * Use extra care when driving on a bridge or elevated ramp during the winter because they freeze before roads do.

Snow Shoveling Tips

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway or sidewalk only to have it plowed in?

Public Works suggests that you wait until the street is cleared before you shovel the last five feet of your driveway or your sidewalk. Always clear an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below) to give the snow on the blade of the plow a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. This way you won't have to do the same job twice.

Public Works also reminds you that it is illegal to push snow from a parking lot or driveway onto a township roadway.



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:

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

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors: Work Sessions are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Work Sessions are the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and Regular Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board: meetings are scheduled as needed

UCC Joint Appeal Board: Second Wednesday of month as needed at 7 p.m.

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

Administrative Staff:

Township Manager: Anne W. Klepfer
Township Secretary/Treasurer: Anne W. Klepfer
Assistant to the Manager: Marianne K. Morano
Building Inspector & Zoning Officer: Michael Gardner
Public Works Director: Jeff Scholl
Bookkeeper: Kim Mauer

Email Addresses:

staff@eastrockhilltownship.org
inspector@eastrockhilltownship.org
works@eastrockhilltownship.org
manager@eastrockhilltownship.org

Pennridge Regional Police Department:

1027 Ridge Road
Sellersville, PA 18960
Non Emergency Telephone: 215-257-5104
Emergency Telephone: 911

Tax Collector: Kathleen Percetti;

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 68, Perkasio, PA 18944
Telephone: 215-453-8866
Office Address: 2037 Hill Road,
Sellersville, PA 18960

Office Hours & Phone Numbers

Administrative Office:

Monday through Friday from
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
215-257-9156

Road and Public Services:

Monday through Friday from
7:00 am to 3:00 pm
215-257-9156

Building and Zoning:

Monday through Friday from 8:00
am to 4:00 pm 215-257-9156

Police Emergency: 24 Hours – 911

Police Non-Emergency:

215-257-5104

Fire Emergency: 911

Tax Collector: 215-453-8866

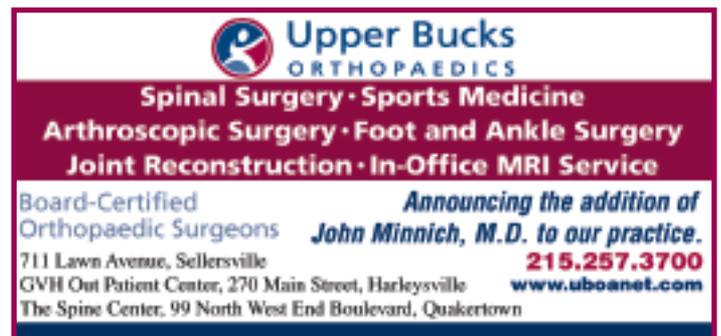


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