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EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP Report

—Spring/Summer 2010—

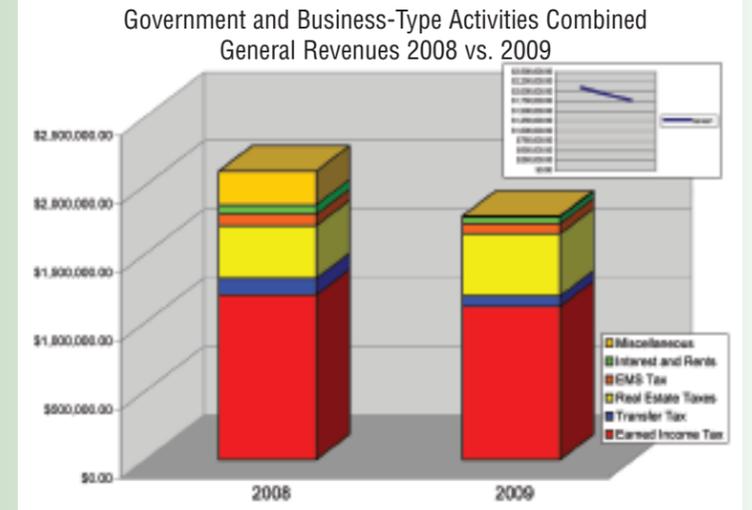
REPORT ON TOWNSHIP FINANCES: WILL THE PICTURE BRIGHTEN THIS YEAR?

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 Fund, concluded annual business with a \$ 207,725 deficit.

Why is the Township operating in a deficit? The nationwide economic recession has severely impacted the Township's general revenues, which include real estate taxes, the Earned Income Tax, the Local Service (Emergency Service) Tax, interest and rents, and miscellaneous income. Revenue dropped by 11.1 percent, resulting in a loss of \$384,301 net of a .95 mill real estate tax increase implemented in 2009.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax, which is paid when real property transfers ownership, dropped 38.4 percent in 2009 and has declined 57 percent since it peaked in 2006. During the same time, revenue from the Local Service (business privilege) Tax also declined 23 percent.

In 2009, revenues negatively affected by the recession broadened to include the Earned Income Tax, which declined 6.9 percent or approximately \$83,000.



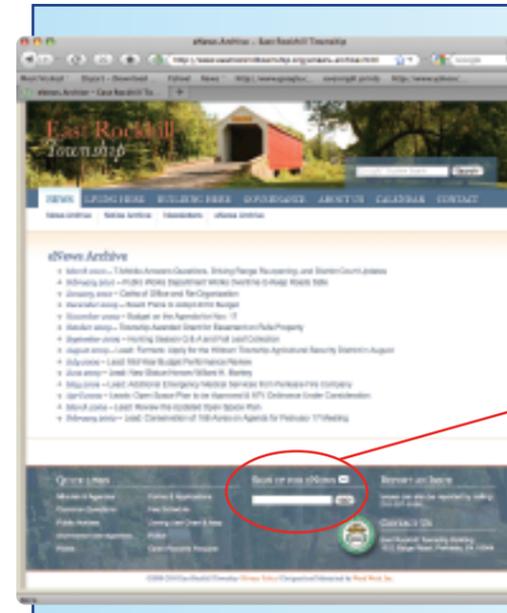
Continued on page 3...

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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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Board of Supervisors:

John R. Cressman, Chair
Gary W. Volovnik, Vice-Chair
Jim C. Neitopski, 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: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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, Perkasie, PA 18944
Telephone: 215-453-8866
Office hours: Wednesday, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. (Except: Nov., Dec., Jan. & Feb. by appointment only)
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

Continued from front cover...REPORT ON TOWNSHIP FINANCES: WILL THE PICTURE BRIGHTEN THIS YEAR?

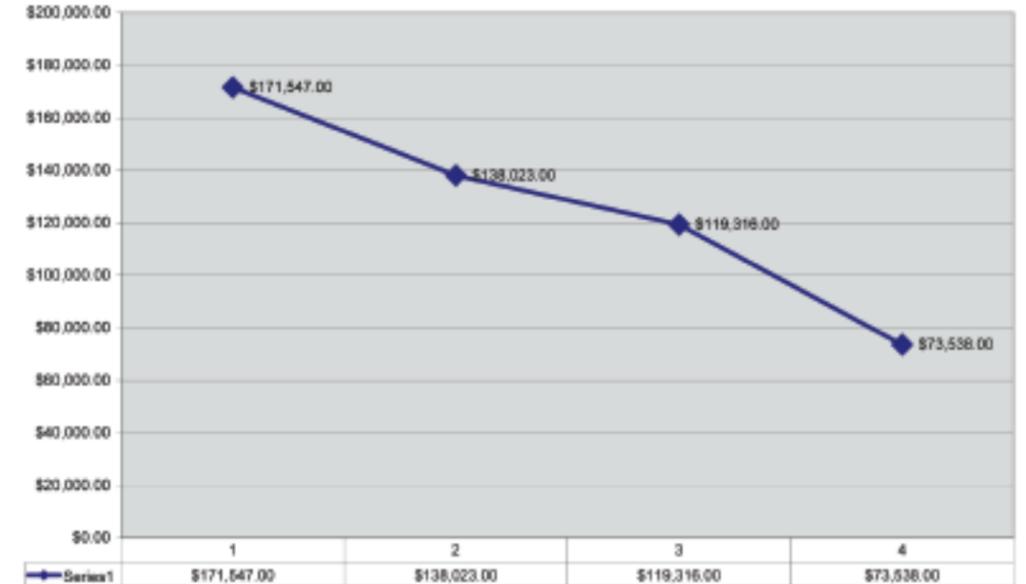
So far, the Township has weathered the financial downturn by reducing expenditures through staff reductions and deferred capital improvements; increases in real estate taxes in 2007 and 2009; increased use of "one-time" revenues; and depletion of capital reserves.

Township staff cannot predict whether the current trends will continue or to what extent. First Quarter 2010 financial results indicate that revenues are slightly up from a year ago and that expenditures are level. The Township is hopeful that 2010 will bring back some measure of financial stability.

However, residents should be aware that the Township is struggling to comply with unfunded state and federal mandates, with significant utility (30 percent) and commodity cost increases, and unrelenting maintenance responsibilities and is doing so with reduced staff and funding.

Severely low cash reserves and an uncertain economic future have caused the Township to eliminate discretionary spending and defer capital improvements. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Real Estate Transfer Tax 2006-2009
57% Decline from 2006-2009



Congratulations!

Website, e-Newsletter Recognized

East Rockhill Township is proud to announce that we received 2 communication awards at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) 42nd annual township citizen communication contest.

We took home **1st place in the electronics newsletter category** and **second place for our website**. Entries were judged on usefulness of information presented and how effectively information was communicated.

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Supervisor Profile: Jim Nietupski

Asked to come up with one word that sums up the qualities he brings to the East Rockhill Board of Supervisors, Jim Nietupski said: "Capable."

Capable as in able to build his own house, fly an airplane, drive a truck, run a backhoe, work a chain saw, and much more. Capable as in able to negotiate a win-win solution without compromising principles. Capable as in able to defeat a long standing incumbent and make the position his own.

"I'm very excited about the future," said Nietupski, a mechanical engineer by training. "Engineers are results-oriented. That's who I am."

Nietupski hit the ground running in his first six months on the Board. Increasing communication between the township and residents is one of his top priorities.

"We need to provide more information beyond what is required," he says. "Spin is unacceptable."

An Erie, PA. native, Jim has lived with his wife, Robin on a 32-acre farm along Route 313 since 1994 – a farm that was owned by his wife's grandparents for over 40 years. Jim and Robin both feel deeply rooted in East Rockhill Township. He first got involved with politics in 2003 following re-zoning and the creation of the Agricultural Preservation district.

After losing the 2003 primary, he persisted for the next two general elections, each time increasing his vote count and closing the gap. Jim's persistence won him a six-year term in 2009. To help Jim better understand the requirements of his new position, in January, he attended the two-day Supervisor Training seminar offered by the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors.

A strong advocate for property owners' rights, Nietupski says it's extremely important to balance the need for economic development with the desire to maintain the township's rural character. He's developed the framework for an Economic Development Advisory Committee that would help the township find new sources of revenue without changing the essential nature of the community. The plan is posted on the township website.

"Nothing is off limits" with regard to economic development, he says. Jim actively solicits and encourages residents to submit any and all comment that could help in creating a plan that will ultimately benefit all residents.

Nietupski also is pleased that plans are moving forward for a new headquarters for the Pennridge Regional Police Department. As a member of the Police Commission, he's helped move forward a site plan and budget for the project.

Nietupski praised fellow supervisors John Cressman and Gary Volovnik for their spirit of cooperation. Replacing Nyman, a well-respected Supervisor for many years, "could have been difficult but the transition has been smooth," he said. "They could have been resistant and resentful, but they are not," he said. "The residents wanted something different. That's why they elected me." Jim looks forward to the next six years with optimism.



Quick Facts:

- Age:** 55
- Born:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- Education:** B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State University, 1981
- Work:** account manager for aerospace company for 20 years

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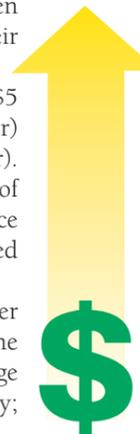
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Sewer Rates Have Increased

Now that quarterly sewer bills have been mailed, some residents are noticing their charges have gone up.

Last year, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$5 increase in both residential (to \$100 per quarter) and non-residential rates (to \$110 per quarter). The increase was necessary to offset rising costs of operating our sewage treatment and conveyance system. For example, electricity charges increased 30 percent in 2010.

A reminder that you can always make a sewer payment in our drop-off box located in the driveway next to the Township Building on Ridge Road. Employees empty the box every day; payments are stamped the day they are received.



Road Inspection in April



On Saturday, April 10 the Board of Supervisors conducted a tour and inspection of all Township roadways, parks and paths. Specifically, they looked at the Rockhill Road stone arch bridge, which has experienced significant damage, and viewed creek bank erosion that is threatening the Bryan Walking Trail and Township sewer line.

The Board will be finalizing 2010 maintenance plans and working on strategies to address costly capital improvements that currently are not funded.

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Protecting Water Resources: The glass of water you save may be your own

There are a few key ingredients that make life on Plant Earth possible – energy from the sun, air to breathe and water to drink. Without these, life would cease to exist.

We can do very little to affect the power of the sun or change the way the sun impacts our lives. But humans can create dramatic and devastating impacts to air and water quality.

Since 1964, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy has been helping families and businesses make wise choices about how they use local water. In the mid-60's, the Perkiomen Creek was very nearly a dead creek. Sewage, and industrial and agricultural wastes were dumped untreated into the Perkie and her tributaries. The philosophy seems to be: "What is downstream doesn't matter!"

The result was poor water quality, decreasing aquatic life and a decreasing desire to come into contact with the creek.

Since passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, awareness about the need to protect our water resources and new techniques for managing potential pollutants have helped a great deal. Current efforts have gone beyond regulations aimed at industrial pollutants and are now focusing on the myriad "non-point source" pollutants that originate on lawns, roads, parking lots and farm fields.



Non-point source pollutants are very difficult to control because they come from everywhere and we are all responsible for them, in one form or another.

In addition, awareness is growing about the need to treat stormwater with a little more respect. Stormwater is the only water available for recharging local groundwater supplies. In the past, the goal was to move stormwater downstream quickly in hopes of avoiding localized flooding. But stormwater must infiltrate into the ground if residential and municipal wells are to be maintained during seasonal dry spells.

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy suggests that we can all make small individual changes that will help make a big difference to water resources in our communities. Below are "10 Things I Can Do to Help Protect My Water." Some are more easily accomplished than others but all will help protect our local creeks, water supply, and the other organisms and habitats that rely on our local water resources. So give a few of these a try. Remember, "the glass of water you save may be your own."

(The PWC is available to help find answers to your water questions. Please give us a call at 610-287-9383 or Contact Crystal Gilchrist at cgilchrist@perkiomenwatershed.org.)

Ten Things I Can Do to Protect My Water

- Pick up after pets and keep livestock out of streams.** Animal wastes can carry harmful bacteria and diseases, contaminate creeks and require expensive water treatment for human uses.
- Never dump anything down a storm drain.** Storm drains do not filter pollutants from stormwater, so anything that goes down the storm drain will eventually end up in the nearest creek.
- Maintain open, forested floodplains.** Floodplains are critical landforms that absorb water during storm events and act as giant filters the rest of the time. Filling or paving them increases flooding and pollution elsewhere.
- Plant trees and maintain naturally vegetated streamside buffers.** Streamside trees and native vegetation help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff and reduce erosion by holding stream bank soils in place.
- Convert large yards or public spaces from mown grass to meadows.** The typical suburban lawn is nearly as impervious as a parking lot! Meadow grasses help stormwater infiltrate into the ground better and provide critical habitat for grassland birds.
- Cut back on lawn fertilizers and pesticides.** Fertilizers applied in the spring flow directly into creeks because the grass is not ready to absorb it. Use a

mulching mower set at three inches to create a healthy, organic lawn.

7. Disconnect your downspout from the storm drain. Rainwater from your roof is just as damaging to creeks and streams as runoff from a parking lot. Let your yard help filter out impurities and infiltrate stormwater back into the local aquifer.

8. Convert a corner of your yard into a rain garden. A wet area in your yard can be a nuisance or an amenity, depending on how you manage it. If it's wet, look for local plants that like "wet feet" and create a visual focal point.

9. Keep your paves surfaces to a minimum. Patios and parking spaces can be created with attractive pervious materials that allow stormwater infiltrations to the soils below.

10. Maintain your septic tank. Septic tank maintenance sure isn't sexy but with thousands of on-lot septic systems in our communities, proper maintenance is critical to protecting groundwater and surface water from contamination.

(These tips are courtesy of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. The PWC is available to help find answers to your water questions. Please give us a call at 610-287-9383 or Contact Crystal Gilchrist at cgilchrist@perkiomenwatershed.org.)

District Court Reports on 2009 Activity

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



District Court 07-2-03 handled more than 3,600 cases during 2009. The Pennridge area's District Court is located in the REMAX building (first floor) at Seventh and Market streets in downtown Perkasio, across from the town clock. The court covers Perkasio and Sellersville boroughs, East and West Rockhill townships and the Bucks County side of Telford Borough.

The court receives the bulk of its citations and criminal complaints from four police departments: Perkasio Borough Police, Pennridge Regional Police, Telford Borough Police and Pennsylvania State Police Dublin Barracks. For most citizens, this "grass roots" level of the commonwealth's court system is often the only court that residents will ever encounter.

District judges handle cases in five basic areas: criminal, traffic, non-traffic (such as disorderly conduct, municipal ordinance violations, state game citations, truancies, etc); civil cases under \$8,000 and miscellaneous matters such as emergency protection from abuse orders to marriages (but not divorces).

All criminal cases within my jurisdiction start out in our court. The judge's role is to arraign defendants after their arrest by advising them of their rights, set a hearing date and determine their bail, and whether or not they go to jail until their hearing is held. The next step is a preliminary hearing at which the judge hears testimony and weighs evidence to determine if charges should be dismissed or bound over for trial in county court.

District judges also issue criminal warrants for arrests based on police affidavits, and also must approve all search warrants before they are carried out by police.

Traffic cases are summary motor vehicle offenses initiated by a law enforcement officer. District courts collect the fines and judges hold hearings for those cases in which not-guilty pleas are

entered. Non-traffic cases are also summary offenses and include municipal code violations and school truancies.

Serving as the peoples' "small claims" court, civil suits seeking a monetary judgment of less than \$8,000 can be filed in the district court. Forms to be filled out by plaintiffs are available at the court or online at www.aopc.org/forms. Civil cases also include landlord/tenant disputes over rent, damages or evictions.

Couples seeking to be married may apply for their marriage license at our court. I was honored to have performed more than 75 marriages in my courtroom last year.

Public trust and confidence begins with a fair and impartial judiciary. Every day, I and the other 550 commonwealth district judges work to fairly provide resolution to disputes, to protect peoples' constitutional rights and to uphold the law. During 2009, our court handled more than 3,600 cases and collected more than \$430,000 in fines and fees, which go to state, county and local coffers. Our caseload breakdown was as follows, with the second figure the 2008 number: criminal 337 (404); traffic 2,233 (3,253); non-traffic 426, (621); civil 404 (428) and miscellaneous 201 (186).

Our court is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and our telephone number is 215-257-5181 (fax is 215-257-5190). Neither the court clerks nor I can give legal advice, but our veteran and dedicated staff will attempt to answer your procedural questions or how to file or appeal cases.

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completed grades 6-10

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www.fbcperkasio.org church@fbcperkasio.org

Approved Cell Towers Mean Extra Revenue for Township

In response to declining revenues, the Township has sought out alternative revenues. One source that presented itself is rent paid for cell phone towers. The Township has reached lease agreements with tower companies for two municipally-owned properties.

The first tower was recently erected on the wastewater treatment plant property on Branch Road. The second tower will be constructed behind the Township Municipal Complex on Ridge Road.



Rent from the towers will bring in approximately \$25,000 annually, with the potential to increase as additional carriers locate on the towers.



Ordinance Amended

The Township adopted two Ordinance Amendments in April and is reviewing a third. All three ordinances are available for review on the Township website (www.eastrockhilltownship.org).

The Suburban Zoning Ordinance Amendment (adopted April 20, 2010)

- Revised townhouse, dwelling unit mix, and parking requirements within the "S" district;
- Provides for age-qualified housing in the "S" district;
- Amends the maximum impervious surface and maximum building coverage ratios for certain dwelling types;
- Amends the wetland margin and riparian buffer provisions;
- Deletes certain outdated dwelling types.

The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment (adopted April 20, 2010)

- Revises the Traffic Impact Study Provisions;

The Village Commercial Zoning Amendment (under review)

- Updates General Requirements and Standards
- Expand the Village Commercial District by rezoning specified properties and amending the Township Zoning Map accordingly;
- Provide for multiple uses within the VC District by Conditional Use;
- Provide for Regulations and Dimensional and Area Requirements for Multiple Uses in the VC Village Commercial Zoning District;
- Amend the Table of Use Regulations;
- Amend Building Coverage Restrictions to the F25 Use;
- Amend the minimum front yard requirement in the VC District;
- Amend the Maximum Freestanding Sign Height and Other Sign Requirements in the VC Zoning District



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Youth Sports • Gymnastics Center
Fitness Classes • Swimming
Gymnasium
Child Care & Racquetball
(located at 151 S. 14th St.)

401 Fairview Avenue, Quakertown
215-536-YMCA(9622)

For a complete list of programs, visit www.ubymca.org

Community Reminders: Driving Range Now Open, Dog Etiquette, and More!

Yard Waste Dumpster

The Township empties the community dumpster every Friday and Monday; however, recent high volumes of trash have made it difficult to keep pace. East Rockhill was awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to purchase an additional dumpster and will have two in place in the coming month.

Please do not place firewood logs or tree stumps in the dumpster, and please do not leave trash on site if dumpster is not in place.



Township Driving Range Is Open

Give the gift of golf tokens for Father's Day! Tokens cost \$5 at the park and can be purchased for a bulk discount at the Township office during business hours. Eight grass tees and a sand trap are available for all golf enthusiasts. The driving range is open from dawn to dusk and will close for the winter after Thanksgiving.

Be Considerate of Township Open Space

Children's play equipment and gardens should not be installed in Township open space. Public open space is for the use and enjoyment of all residents. Please be considerate of your neighbors and respect the property boundaries.

Dog Walking Etiquette

Please keep your dog on a leash at all times! It is the only sure way to keep your dog under control. The Township has received numerous complaints of dogs running at large and out of control. As always, please be mindful of cleaning up after your dog as well.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Saturday, June 12

While cleaning, you may have recently come across some half-used bottles of insecticide, oil-based paint, or household



cleaners and solvents you no longer need. Your first instinct might be to throw them in the garbage - but this is very dangerous for the environment.

Instead, bring these unwanted hazardous items to Upper Bucks Vo-Tech campus on June 12 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Read more about how to safely dispose of hazardous waste.

Zoning and Building Permits.

The purpose of zoning is to provide a means for orderly development. Zoning regulates land use, establishes lot size and development standards for different lot sizes, creates certain width and depth requirements, and creates performance and property maintenance standards.



These regulations are designed to provide for orderly and compatible development, provide for sufficient light and ventilation, to ensure privacy and to protect the public safety by maintaining space between buildings and between streets. Performance standards and property maintenance standards are designed to add an extra measure of protection for residents by regulating potentially harmful or annoying uses and managing such factors as noise, odor, glare, light and vibration.

All new structures, including accessory type structures such as signs, sheds, fences, decks, and patios and swimming pools, as well as building additions or new construction homes and garages, require Zoning Permits. Please apply for the proper zoning and building permits before starting your project.

Application forms are available on the Township's website. Non-permitted improvements identified by the Township result in a 50-percent penalty fee and projects determined to be in violation of the Zoning Ordinance require an application to the Zoning Hearing Board for relief.

The Zoning Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial board that hears applications. The residential fee for an application to the Zoning Hearing Board is currently set at \$850.

The Village at East Rockhill

Retail and office space available.
1,500-15,000 Sq. Ft. • Bank Pad also available.

Contact: Tim Gulla
R.E. Management Services
215-453-8097 • Tgulla@verizon.net



Coming Soon to 5th Street & Rt. 313

Bucks County Parks Junior Fishing Camp

The fishing program is for youngsters age 9 to 14 years (as of July 1, 2010). Kids will explore different locations, fishing environments and water eco systems. Visits will be made to Lake Towhee Park, Lake Nockamixon, Tohickon Creek and the pond behind Weisel Hostel. Class size is a minimum of 9 and 16 maximum.

DATES:

Session 1 – July 19 to 23. The first day, campers will meet at pavilion #2 Lake Towhee Park, Old Bethlehem Pike, Quakertown.

Session 2 – August 16 to 20. The first day the campers will meet at Nockamixon State Park, location to be determined; everyone who has registered will be notified by telephone.

Both camps will run from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

COST: \$50 per child (includes instruction, equipment, and staffing)

Call Jill Unger at 215-489-5132 for more information.



28th Annual Bucks County Senior Games



If you have participated in Senior Games in the past, then come on back and join your friends. If not, here is your chance to have fun and meet new people with similar interests.

Participants for this great event come from all over the county – more than 400 seniors participate each year! The Games are held for county residents 50 years and older. There are 22 events with something for everyone, including golf, tennis, bicycling, bowling, swimming, badminton, track and field, and much more!

The purpose of the Games is to encourage seniors to stay healthy and active and become more health-conscious. In addition to the sports activities, there will be a Health Expo featuring a Fashion Show and entertainment.

The Games are co-sponsored with the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging, Bucks County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Pennsylvania Corporation for Aging, and Independence Blue Cross/Keystone Health Plan East. Activities will be held at various locations throughout the County; please check the listing below for details:



June 1 to 4 – Tennis at Core Creek Park on Woodbourne Road in Langhorne; offers 8 a.m. play for ages 60 and above; at 5:30 p.m., evening play at Central Park in Doylestown

Township is for those 50 to 59 years only.

June 3 – Health Expo – 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Delaware Valley College on Route 202 in Doylestown. This event features health screenings, giveaways, seminars, entertainment, fashion show, bingo and refreshments. Also included that day will be men's and women's bocce.



June 4 – Bowling at 8 a.m. at Brunswick Zone Lanes on Street Road in Feasterville.

June 5 – Opening Ceremonies at Central Bucks West High School's War Memorial Field in Doylestown; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for events such as track and field, darts, badminton, etc.

June 7 – Golf from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fairways Golf Club on Route 611 in Warrington (rain date is June 11).

June 8 – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Central Bucks Family YMCA, Lower State Road, Doylestown

June 9 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Northampton Senior Center, Township Road, Richboro.

June 11 – Awards Luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. at the Delaware Valley College Dining Hall, Route 202 in Doylestown.

Registration is \$13 per person. Note to all previous participants: you will get a 50-percent discount on your registration if you bring a NEW participant to the Games. There will also be a 50/50 raffle with the drawing at the Awards Ceremony.

For more information, call the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation (215-489-5132) or the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging (215-348-6116). Applications are available at the two co-sponsoring agencies, at all 13 Senior Centers in the county, and at all regional libraries. Information and a registration form are also on the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging website (www.buckscounty.org/AAA.htm)



Bridge Repairs/Road Closures

Cedarview Overlay

The roads disturbed by the installation of waterlines for the Cedarview Waterline Extension Project will have full-width overlays by the end of the summer. The project is being financed by Perkasio Borough Water Authority with grant funding and will be completed with township forces and outside contractors. The bidding process is underway and at the time of publication no date is set.

Iron Bridge on Branch Road

Bucks County will be repairing the "Iron Bridge" on Branch Road near Whites Road. Branch Road will be closed for a

minimum of four weeks this summer while contractors replace the iron bridge. Use Blue School Road or Blooming Glen Road as a detour. At this time, the project is not under contract, so no specific dates are available.

Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge on Covered Bridge Road

Sheard's Mill Bridge will undergo minor repairs and cosmetic improvements beginning in July. The bridge and road may be closed intermittently or for several days between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The repairs are being funded by Community Development Block Grants awarded to Haycock and East Rockhill Townships.

State Grant Funds Equipment Purchase

Thanks to a \$27,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection, East Rockhill Township has been able to purchase an additional 40-yard Dumpster for yard waste and a new leaf vacuum this year.

The township applied for the money in 2007 under DEP's Recycling Program Development and Implementation program.

The township plans to sell its old leaf vacuum and anticipates using that money for non-recycling equipment.

Open Space Preservation Remains High Priority

Despite difficult economic conditions, East Rockhill Township remains committed to preserving open space. It is an on-going process that depends on open communication channels, available funding, patience and good timing.

When the real estate market was at its peak, high property values and limited funding made preservation efforts challenging. Despite these challenges, East Rockhill Township has made some significant strides by keeping channels open and continuing the preservation dialogue with interested property owners.

In 2008 Bucks County announced the renewal of the Municipal Open Space Program that will provide \$26 million over 10 years to help communities preserve natural resources, farmland, and parkland. East Rockhill Township is eligible for a portion of this funding based on land area and percent of total county population.

With the adoption of our Open Space Plan last year, the township was able to preserve three properties covering a total of 248.10 acres. Two more properties, with a combined 75 acres, are slated to be preserved this year.

Protecting environmentally diverse properties with conservation easements will safeguard the Township's rural character and natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Public announcements will be made when each acquisition is finalized.

A conservation easement is a tool used to protect and preserve properties. The purchase of a conservation easement provides compensation to property owners for the value of the development ability forsaken without transferring ownership of the land.

If you are interested in learning more about conservation easements or discussing the preservation of your property, please contact the Township Manager at 215-257-9156.



Reminder About Trash and Recycling Collection

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

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

The East Rockhill Township Residential Recycling Center

The Residential Recycling Center is open for all East Rockhill Township residents. Located at 1622 N. Ridge Road behind the municipal building, the center accepts: paper, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles, and other residential plastics.

A yard waste container is available for non-commercial resident use; however, during peak times of the year it is often full or being emptied. If you plan to come during business hours, the Township recommends calling ahead. **PLEASE NO LOGS OR TREE STUMPS.**

NO Commercial Contractors.
Violators will be subject to fines and penalties.



Single-Hauler Trash District

The trash district, Pines at Pennridge I & II and Cedarbrook Crossing, receives trash service through a township-bid single hauler contract. The current contract is with Allied Waste and includes weekly collection of trash and recycling and optional Christmas tree collection and monthly yard waste collection (pay per bag).

The current contract is through 2011. Incremental rate increases are included in the contract for 2010 and 2011. Allied Waste can be contacted at 215-723-0400.

Private Collection

Those who do not live within the trash district must arrange for trash pick-up with a private hauler approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Commercial and Institutional uses must also contract privately.

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

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

Allied Waste
215-723-0400

www.republicservices.com/allied.html

Ches-Mont
610-584-5450

www.chesmont.com

Waste Management
1-800-869-5566

www.wm.com

G & C Waste Services
610-313-9710

www.gcwaste.com

2010 Spring Yard Waste Collection Scheduled

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 requirements imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection under Act 101 of 1988 and Act 140 of 2006. Spring yard waste collection will be scheduled by district with no registration required. The 2010 Spring Program is as follows:

- **District 1:** All addresses south of and including Ridge Road. Items for collection must be ready by 7 a.m. on Tuesday, **June 1** for collection either that day or the next.
- **District 2:** All addresses north of Ridge Road. Items for collection must be ready by 7 a.m. on Thursday, **June 3** for collection on either that day or the next.

All yard waste collection will be done during the week of

Memorial Day. The program will not be extended.

Tree limbs and branches are to be placed in neat piles at the edge of the road or driveway. Limb size is restricted to four (4) to six (6) feet lengths no greater than five inches (5) in circumference. Piles for pick-up are limited to four (4) feet wide, four (4) feet high and six (6) feet long.

If you miss the curbside collection or have additional yard waste, the East Rockhill Township Drop-off Center is open 24 hours daily for township residents only; commercial landscapers are not permitted. The center is monitored electronically and violators will be prosecuted.

Having tried it both with bags and without, the Township is now asking that no bags be deposited with the leaf and yard waste.

Again, thank you for your patience and cooperation.



Note: We apologize if, for reasons beyond our control, this information is no longer timely.



From the Pennridge Regional Police Department

Dan Forbes Named Officer of the Year

Officer Dan Forbes was named the 2009 Officer of the Year Award at a full meeting of the Pennridge Regional Police Commission. Officer Forbes was presented an engraved desk clock and a perpetual plaque with his name engraved on it. Many officers, civilian staff and Officer Forbes' family were in attendance for the presentation of the department's first award.

Officer Forbes began his career with the department in June 2007. Throughout 2009, Officer Forbes demonstrated that he possessed exemplary patrol tactics and solid investigatory skills, accounting for one felony arrest and 17 misdemeanor arrests. In 10 misdemeanor cases, 14 people were taken into custody for narcotics violations. Officer Forbes was involved in eight self-initiated narcotics arrests for marijuana, heroin, prescription medications and drug paraphernalia. With the help of Officer Forbes, total arrests for possession of narcotics and similar offenses rose 85 percent.

Officer Forbes received a Departmental Commendation for his involvement in a large scale burglary investigation, a letter from

Captain Turk from the Pennsylvania State Police for assisting Troopers with a reported armed subject in Richland Township and, most recently, a Chief's Letter of Recognition for his involvement in a burglary in progress whereby an offender was arrested shortly after attempting to burglarize a home along Old Bethlehem Pike.

Last year, Officer Forbes took part in the 2009 "Live Strong" 40-mile bicycle ride, raising \$350 for cancer research. He also collected food from police departments throughout Bucks County for the Philabundance Food Drive for those less fortunate.



Chief David Mettin and Officer Daniel Forbes

Inter-Municipal Agreement to be Considered with West Rockhill Township for Police Headquarters Project



The Board of Supervisors will consider an agreement with West Rockhill Township that will allow the Pennridge Regional Police Commission to move forward with plans to build a police headquarters on Ridge Road in West Rockhill Township, near the Comcast building.

Both municipalities would split the project's estimated \$2 million cost; East Rockhill Township implemented a 1.26 mill real estate tax to pay for its share of the project.

Design plans and bid documents are being finalized, and bids for construction will be advertised soon.

Traffic Accidents Down for the Fifth Year in a Row

The Pennridge Regional Police Department is dedicated to providing safe roadways in our community. In 2009, officers worked to increase visibility through targeted traffic enforcement details, initiating "Phantom Patrols" and utilizing the department's speed board and speed trailer to advise motorists of their speed versus the posted speed limit.

The department also utilized a large message board, advising

motorists of our traffic safety campaigns. In addition, officers have engaged in federally-funded traffic enforcement efforts, such as the "Click It or Ticket" and "Aggressive Driving" programs. These programs focus on seat belt education, enforcement and aggressive driving habits.

The end result...total accidents decreased for the 5th straight year.