

Pennridge Regional Police Department Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Pennridge Regional Police Department is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. Officers began patrolling East and West Rockhill townships as the Pennridge Regional Police Department on January 1, 1992.

The department was born out of a need to provide police services to East Rockhill, West Rockhill, and Sellersville Borough after the retirement of the chiefs from each department. The three municipalities formed the Pennridge Regional Police Commission and hired William Heim as their first Chief of Police.

Since 1992, many changes have occurred at the department, from the departure of Sellersville Borough to the building of a new state-of-the-art police station on Ridge Road in 2012. The development of an internship program and many community-oriented outreach programs have helped the department strive to provide the highest level of police services to those living in and visiting the Pennridge area. Today, the 11-member department is led by Chief Paul T. Dickinson, Jr.

In recognition of the 30th anniversary, officers are wearing a special badge purchased with a combination of donations and departmental funds. The badges replace the one issued by the department for 2022.

East Rockhill Township salutes the men and women who have and continue to provide stellar service to our community. We wish them good health and safe shifts for many years to come.



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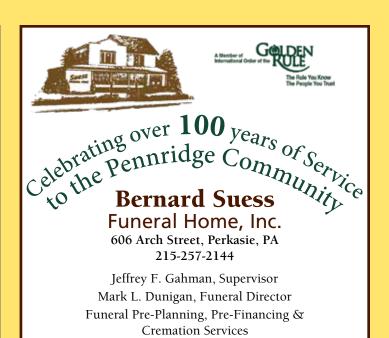




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VOTE

This year, the primary election is scheduled for

MAY 17, 2022 from 7 A.M. until 8 P.M.

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



Polling Location:

BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (replaces Christ Community Bible Church as of May 2021) ONE HILLENDALE ROAD PERKASIE, PA

To determine what voting district you are in, check the Voting District Map on the township website..

New voters must show identification the first time they vote in a new district.

FROM THE DESK OF Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

The 2022 Bucks County and East Rockhill Township real estate taxes were mailed to all property owners. There was no increase in the millage rate from last year. Taxes are due in the face amount by June 30. After June 30, they are due in the penalty amount. Pennridge School District real estate taxes will be mailed on July 1 and are due in discount amount by August 31 or the face amount until October 31. After October 31, school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year.

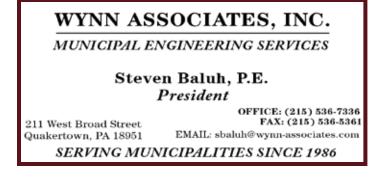
If you would like to pay your school tax bill in installments, the first installment must be postmarked by August 31. The remaining two installment coupons will be mailed in September. The second installment is due on October 31 and the final installment is due on December 15. Please note that if you elect to opt in to pay by installments, you cannot opt-out after the first payment is made.

If you do not receive your tax bills in the mail, please contact me for a copy as soon as possible. Pennsylvania law states that failure to receive the tax bill does not relieve taxpayers of their responsibility to pay the taxes due.

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. Please check last year's school receipt to make sure you received the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion. Please contact me if you have any questions.

For your convenience, a drop box is available on the front of the garage at 2037 Hill Road for payments.

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 will be happy to help you with any questions that you have.



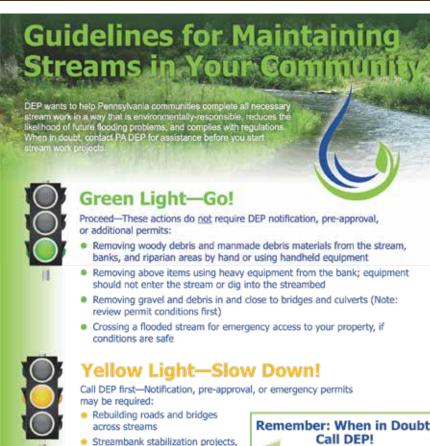


How You Can Promote Pollinators

Did you know more than 80 percent of flowering plants require the help of pollinators, and that one out of every three bites of food we take is made possible by bees? Following these simple steps this summer will help to promote pollinators in our area:

- Provide food plant at least three different types of flowers, and avoid invasive species and hybrid plants.
- · Provide a water source pollinators need drinking water for reproduction.
- Provide shelter leaving a patch of the garden in a sunny, uncultivated spot will allow native bees to burrow. For wood-nesting bees, branches and logs are great examples of shelter to promote bee vitality.
- · Reduce pesticide use using fewer toxic pesticides will also protect beneficial insects that help control pests. Never spray a blooming plant; always spray after dusk when pollinators are not active.

For more information on conserving bees and other pollinators, visit https://extension.psu.edu/ conserving-wild-bees-in-pennsylvania.





- Streambank stabilization projects, including riprap
- Removing gravel bars from the stream channel using heavy equipment
- Repairing a bridge or culvert, or removing one in danger of failure



Red Light—Stop!

These actions require permits from DEP, and possibly from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other agencies:

- Redirecting the flow of a stream by reshaping gravel bars, or moving gravel to the streambank
- Moving/relocating a stream
- Dredging or damming streams, or creating dikes
- Building a new bridge or culvert







What is Inflow and Infiltration and Why Does it Matter

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) are terms that describe clear water that enters wastewater systems, takes up limited space in wastewater pipes, and increases demand at wastewater treatment plants. Excessive flows can result in public and environmental health concerns if untreated sewage discharges to basements, rivers, lakes, or other public areas.

Inflow and infiltration each have unique sources, methods of entry, and effects on the wastewater collection system. Both are costly to communities and utility ratepayers due to increased treatment and maintenance costs.

Inflow is typically stormwater that increases peak flow in the wastewater system during and after rainfall events from point sources such as broken manhole covers, sewer cleanouts, sump pumps, and foundation drains.

Infiltration is typically groundwater that gradually enters the wastewater system through

cracks and openings in sewer mains, service laterals, joints, and deteriorated manholes.

Sources of Inflow and Infiltration
(as indicated by red circles)

Properly Connected Sower System
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Properly

Infiltration increases base flow in the wastewater system and removes water from the natural hydrologic cycle, which could otherwise recharge the regional aquifers.

Spring-Summer Stormwater Management

There are several ways residents can help protect local waterways during the upcoming seasons:

- **Plant native plants,** which provide biodiversity and require less maintenance and water to thrive. A list of native plant details can be found www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation
- Mulch your grass clippings, which are a source of nitrogen fertilizer. Let them decompose on your lawn and never blow them into the street.
- Use chemicals (fertilizers and weed killers) sparingly to ensure the excess does not overflow into runoff when heavy rain comes.
- Pick up pet waste, place it in a bag, and dispose of it properly to prevent unhealthy bacteria from flowing into local waterways.
- Wash your car at a car wash instead of in your driveway or in the street to avoid putting grease, soap, and oil into streams and creeks.
- Never dump anything down stormwater drains, which empty directly into local waterways without being treated, so whatever enters storm drains will flow into streams and creeks.
- **Direct downspouts over porous, not paved, surfaces.** Where possible, direct downspouts into garden beds, your lawn or consider installing a rain barrel.
- Raise your mower height at least three inches to slow the flow of water over your lawn and allow it to absorb more rainwater.

Source: Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

Thank You to the Businesses



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

How to Be an Informed Township Resident

It is important for residents to have easy access to information about all Township activities. To that end, we have developed several channels to help you stay informed, including:

- Real-Time Email Notifications: on our website (eastrockhilltownship.org) you can create a login and password to receive real-time e-mail news notifications, meeting agendas, minutes, and updates to bookmarked pages. Once an account is created and the email verified you will begin to receive homepage news postings. Additional email notifications are available for you to select in your account settings.
- Monthly Enewsletter: you can have Enews delivered directly to your inbox a few days before each monthly Board of Supervisors meeting. Search for "enews" on our website for an easy subscription form.
- Social Media: we maintain a Twitter account (@EastRockhillTwp)
- **Printed Bi-annual Newsletter:** this newsletter is mailed twice a year to all township residents. It is provided at no cost to taxpayers, thanks to advertising support from local businesses.
- Contact Staff: township administration and staff are ready and willing to answer questions or hear suggestions from residents about how we can better serve the community. They are best equipped to deal with day-to-day issues. The Board of Supervisors sets policy and ensures the administration and staff work effectively and efficiently to carry out their vision. For a timely response to your questions or concerns, please call the Township Office at 215-257-9156 or send an email to Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org.

Create and Verify Account to receive news and announcement real time email notification

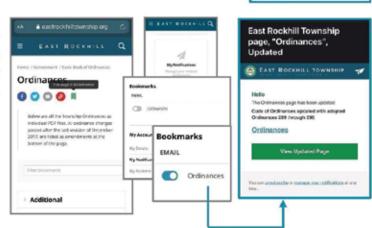


<u>Select Notifications</u> in your account you are interested in.

When an item has been posted to the website you will receive an email notification.

- Meetings to receive agenda, meeting packet and approved minutes
- Calendar to receive events
- News & Announcements to receive real-time notification news items

<u>Bookmark Pages of Interest</u> while logged into your account be on the page of interest to you, bookmark the page and in your account under my notifications turn on to receive an email when the page is updated or document posted.





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Development Under Review

After multiple Planning Commission meetings reviewing the plan, on February 22, 2022, the Board of Supervisors granted preliminary approval with conditions to the Select Properties' residential development, which will exit onto Old Bethlehem Pike and Hill Road. The plan calls for 198 units, including single-family homes and townhouses, on 65 acres.

Please check the township website for updates on meeting dates and times.

Why Can't We Just Say No to Development?

East Rockhill's beautiful open spaces, convenient highway access, and rural quality of life make it an attractive place for many people to live. But rapid growth and development can change the scenic landscape of East Rockhill Township, which attracted people in the first place.

Over the past few decades, new, large-scale housing developments have been built in many places in upper Bucks County. So if sprawl and development potentially change the township in a negative way, why can't the township just tell developers to go elsewhere? Moreover, why would they even try to accommodate development by zoning land for higher-density uses?



Two legal reasons prevent East Rockhill from completely stopping development and even compel the township to accommodate it. The township cannot keep private property owners from gaining some economic use out of their properties. Widely known as the "takings clause," the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

When a government regulation denies all economic use or value of a property, a "taking" of property results. This is applied in a land-use context through zoning regulations and means that all property must be zoned to allow for some form of housing and/or some commercial use.

In addition, every municipality must provide for basic forms of housing, and all institutional, commercial, and industrial uses. In a series of court decisions, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court found that every community must provide for its "fair share" of each particular use.

If the amount of land zoned for a particular use is disproportionately small, or if the use cannot be reasonably accommodated under the provisions of the zoning ordinance, then the courts will hold the ordinance to be exclusionary, will grant relief, and permit the developer to build whatever he or she wishes, despite the municipality's zoning ordinance. Thus, to meet this fair share requirement, East Rockhill's zoning ordinance must contain provisions for all types of development.

Open Space and Conservation Easement Purchases

The Township Board of Supervisors continues its efforts at preserving open space using the Earned Income 0.25% tax as approved by referendum. Anyone interested in land preservation can submit an open space preservation request for consideration.

Public Golf Driving Range Now Open

The driving range at Willard H. Markey Centennial Park (1418 Ridge Road) is open daily from dawn until dusk for golfers of all levels. Our range features several matted tee stalls, a grassy area to practice fairway shots, and a sand trap to prepare you for those times your shot doesn't go as planned. A bucket of approximately 55 range balls is available using a token system.

Tokens are available at the range from a self-serve dispenser for \$5 each. Tokens can also be purchased at the Township Office for \$5 each or seven (7) for \$33. Senior citizens can purchase tokens for \$4.50 apiece.

2022 Road Work Planned

An overlay on Bridgeview Drive and a bonded wearing course on a section of Old Bethlehem Pike and all of Crest Drive are planned for this year.

Three Mile Run Road Pump Station Replacement

The Township recently completed replacement of the Three Mile Run Road Sewer Pump Station. The \$1.1 million project was funded by the sewer revenue fund and replaced a 1981 system.

FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT



Did you know...

Landlords are required to register tenants on an annual basis? Property owners are required to submit a Tenant Identification Form annually or within 30 days of the tenant taking possession of the leased property. The form is available on the Township website or office.

Re-Sale Certificate is required for all property resales prior to settlement? A Township staffer performs an inspection and issues a certificate that is good for 30-days. Any work done without permits will need to be corrected before an approved Certificate is issued.

Recycling is mandatory in East Rockhill Township? To comply with state Department of Environmental mandates, private trash haulers must provide curbside recycling.

Property owners must maintain driveway pipes? Residents are responsible for keeping their driveway pipe clear of debris and properly maintained to allow stormwater flow. The Township installs up to four driveway pipes a year on a Township road; the cost is materials plus installation, or a permit is required.

There are restrictions on use of fireworks? In addition to state requirements, fireworks cannot be discharged within 200 feet of any structure, property line, vehicle, or roadway unless approval from all property owners within the 200-feet area. This distance supersedes state law, which is enforced by the Pennridge Regional Police Department if they witness the activity.



Safely Dispose of Old Medications

The Pennridge Regional Police Department takes 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 dropbox, which is located in the waiting room of the PRPD building at 200 Ridge Road. Citizens can drop their unwanted medications 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 Code Enforcement Department and Pennridge Regional Police Department remind residents that burning trash and recyclable materials -- including leaf and tree waste -- is prohibited by Township Ordinance in compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

What is Recyclable?



NO Recyclables in Plastic Bags

Empty loose recyclables in bin but leave the plastic bag out.



NO Food & liquids

Compost instead! Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO Electronics & Small Appliances

Donate if in good condition, or schedule a bulky item pickup, if available. Check **earth911.com** for a local drop off site.



NO Textiles, Bedding, Rugs & Carpet

Donate these items if they are in good condition. Large quantities may require special disposal.



NO Hoses, Holiday Lights, Hangers & Extension Cords

They wrap around equipment and can shut down an entire facility! They all go in the trash.



NO Plastic Bags, Film/ Sheeting & Flexible Film Packaging

Take plastic bags back to a local grocer to keep bags clean and dry, and prevent them from shutting down recycling facilities. Visit plasticfilmrecycling.org to find a drop off location near you.



NO Paper Napkins, Plates, Cups & Tissues

Compost if possible, and remember to recycle the cardboard tube.



NO Polystyrene Foam

Foam and plastic to-go containers are not recyclable curbside. Find drop off programs for items like foam packing peanuts at earth 9.11.com



NO Tires, Auto Parts & Scrap Metal

(Not in recycling or trash) Can damage equipment & are safety hazards. Contact local scrap recyclers or retail tire stores for recycling options, or check earth911.com for a drop off center near you.



NO Concrete, Wood & Construction Debris

Can damage equipment & are safety hazards. You may be able to schedule a bulky item pickup – otherwise throw it in the trash or order a roll off bin by contacting Waste Management Customer Service.



NO Yard Waste & Wood

Compost or put in your yard waste cart, if available. Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO Non-Recyclable Plastic

Not everything that is plastic is recyclable! Recycle only food & beverage bottles, jugs and tubs.

Keep Yard Waste and Personal Items Out Of Open Space

Residents who have property that borders Township land are reminded that personal property, including plantings, lawn furniture, and any other items, are not permitted. Please be aware that you will be required to remove those items if the Township is made aware of them.

Spring Yard Waste Collection

Our Spring Yard Waste collection is scheduled by district with no registration required.

The 2022 Spring Program is as follows:

- District I: Collection south of and including Ridge Road the week of May 17.
- District II: Collection north of Ridge Road the week of May 23.

Check the township website for an exact 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, grass clippings, and invasive plants such as bamboo 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 five (5) 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 five (5) 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 open Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, from 6 p.m. to noon for township residents and residential personal recycling only; commercial landscapers are not permitted. The center is monitored electronically, and violators will be prosecuted. Please follow the posted notifications at the site.

2022 Bucks County - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Note: Registration is NOT required in Bucks County this year.

The collection events are open to residents only, not businesses, industries, or institutions.

May 7 - Upper Bucks

Upper Bucks Area Vocational-Technical School 3115 Ridge Road, Bedminster Township

June 25 - Central Bucks

Central Bucks South High School 1100 Folly Road, Warrington Township

August 13 - Lower Bucks

Bensalem High School 4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem Township

October 8 - Upper Bucks

Strayer Middle School

1200 Ronal Reagan Drive, Richland Township

Collection events run from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m, RAIN OR SHINE

What You Can Bring

Up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products that have cautionary words such as Danger or Warning on them. Examples include pesticides, flammables, caustics, toxics, batteries, and mini-propane tanks (2 pounds or less).

What You Cannot Bring

Electronics, latex paint, appliances, asbestos, explosives/ammunition, gas cylinders, household batteries (regular alkaline), medical waste/prescription drugs, non-hazardous waste, pressurized CFCs/Freon, smoke detectors, radioactive waste, ties, and unidentified waste.

For more information on disposal options, contact the Bucks County Planning Commission at 215-345-3400, go to buckscounty.gov/recycling, or call the PADEP Recycling Hotline at 800-346-4242



Update from the West Rockhill Historical Society - Heritage House Festival

Join the West Rockhill Historical Society's festival at James Memorial Park on Sunday, June 5 from noon to 5pm. The day will be fun as well as educational for the entire family with local artisans, book signings by local authors, custom woodworkers, glassmakers, crafters, a Civil War encampment, metal detecting, Civil War medicine, and many other demonstrations and vendors. Items will be available for purchase at their estate sale and food will be provided by food trucks.

East Rockhill History

One of the Commonwealth's first counties, Bucks County is named for William Penn's home in England - Buckinghamshire. Bristol Borough, the state's oldest borough, was the first formal settlement in Bucks County, founded in 1681.

Rockhill Township was founded in 1740. The township was aptly named due to its rugged wooded hills and rocky soil. Rockhill Township originally included Sellersville, Perkasie, and Telford, and was the largest township in the county, both in size and population until 1890.

In the 1700s and early 1800s, 94 percent of the U.S. population was living mostly in a rural setting. This would eventually change in the coming years. Most families lived on farms and were self-sufficient and self-reliant. A trip to town was about socializing and buying staples, not groceries. In fact, the first grocery store in the U.S. would not open until 1916. Most food was grown and raised by individual families and excess was sold to neighbors or at small local markets.

The first landowners in Rockhill were English, but the first people to live in the area were the Lenni Lenape, who preferred the valleys of Butter and Branch creeks. The original Quaker settlers were soon outnumbered by German Mennonites. In the very early days, the township was also known as "Servants," as William Penn had originally reserved the land for indentured servants.

By the late 1870s, the surrounding towns were established due largely to the Pennsylvania Railroad, which traversed the region. By this time these small townships were so large it was difficult to maintain roads, and residents became unhappy and disputes arouse on many issues. Eventually, residents began to petition the courts to develop their own boroughs and townships. This is how so many townships split off into Upper and Lower or as with Rockhill, East Rockhill and West Rockhill, now two Townships, of equal area. This development of two separate townships took 20 years in the county courts until it was finalized in 1890.

So, our histories are intertwined not only from our origins but from families that live in surrounding townships and boroughs, shared eating establishments, even shared churches.

The historical society is interested in collecting family and property history from both East and West Rockhill townships. Check them out on Facebook or visit www.westrockhillhistroicalsociety.org to find out more about programming and events, or to become a member. Anyone can join, there are no restrictions; the only requirement is the love of history!

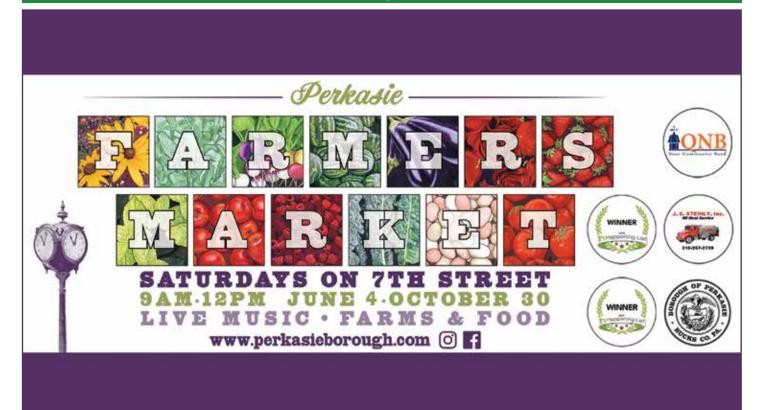
Rock Hill Quarry

A PA DEP December 2018 cessation order issued after naturally occurring asbestos was found at the site remains in effect and no quarrying operations have occurred since that time.

Hanson Aggregates has requested future site activities be limited to the removal of the minimum 500 tons of aggregate annually from existing stockpiles, collecting monthly NPDES water discharge samples, and routine site inspection and security detail. The request is currently under DEP review.







Perkasie Farmers Market Set to Open June 4

The award-winning Perkasie Farmers Market offers a great selection of locally and organically grown produce, meats, eggs, dairy, honey, maple syrup, preserves, baked goods, salads, prepared foods, plants, herbs, and more. Visitors also enjoy live music every week and some themed events around holidays.

The market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon on South 7th Street and runs through the end of October. You can follow the PFM on Facebook at @PerkasieFarmersMarket for updates.

Pool Memberships Available

East Rockhill Township residents are fortunate to have two excellent municipal pool complexes nearby to provide family entertainment during the summer. Here is some important information:

The Menlo Aquatics Center is located at 425 Arthur Avenue (next to the Samuel Pierce Library) in Perkasie. MAC is more than most expect. Boasting three pools, the complex features a whirlpool, lazy river, activity pool for the kids, baby pool with a frog slide and whale spout, a huge drop slide, and a twisting slide. Laps lanes allow serious swimmers to practice their skills. All pools are handicap accessible. Registration for the 2022 season can be completed at www.PerkasieRec.com.

Holiday House Pool is located at 801 Washington Avenue in Sellersville. It features good old-fashioned family-friendly fun throughout the season. In addition to a beautiful pool, Holiday House provides space for bocce, ping pong, and cornhole. For more information, send an email to holidayhousepool@gmail.com.



EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

General Information and Directory

www.EastRockhillTownship.org Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org

ADMINISTRATION

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944 Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM 215-257-9156

PUBLIC WORKS

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944 Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

PENNRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA 18960 Office: 215-257-5104 Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 215-328-8502

ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

Kathleen Percetti Mailing: P.O. Box 68, Perkasie, PA 18944 Office: 2037 Hill Road, Sellersville, PA 18960 215-453-8866

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

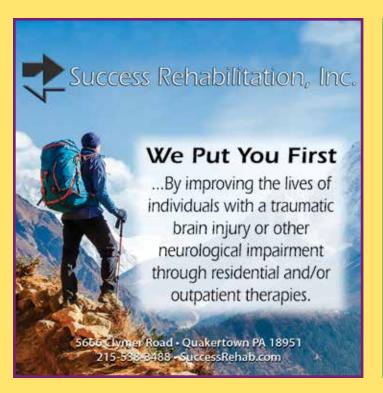
Gary Volovnik, *Chairperson*Dave Nyman, *Vice-Chairperson*Jim Nietupski, *Member*

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Marianne Morano, *Township Manager*Jeff Scholl, *Public Works Director*Samantha Salemno, *Receptionist*Bonnie Schorr, *Accountant*Paul Behr, *Mechanic*Kirby Richards, *Laborer*Latrell Belfield, *Laborer*

MEETING DATES

Board of Supervisors 4th Tuesday, except in December meeting is advertised for 12/20, 7:00 PM
Planning Commission 1st and 2nd Thursday as needed 7:00 PM
Park & Recreation 2nd Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug, Nov as needed 7:00 PM
Police Commission 4th Wednesday except Nov and Dec meeting is advertised for 11/17 and 12/15, 7:00 PM
Zoning Hearing Board Scheduled as Needed
UCC Joint Appeal Board 2nd Wednesday as needed 7:00 PM





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