



# Brecknock Township Newsletter

Brecknock Township, Berks County  
889 Alleghenyville Road, Mohnton, PA 19540-7708

Fall 2016

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### Information

#### Board of Supervisors

Jeffrey M. Fiant, Chairman

Richard K. Burkhart,  
Vice Chairman

F. Mark Weber

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Sec. Treas.

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Enforcement Officer -  
LTL Consultants, Ltd.  
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## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We hope you will find the following financial information to be informative. Please contact the Township office with any questions.

The "General Fund" is the fund into which all tax receipts and other income sources are deposited and from which expenses and payrolls are paid.

The "State Liquid Fuels Fund" receives an allocation from the State of Pennsylvania each year in March from gasoline taxes. Only road related expenses may be paid from this fund.

Every year the Township must prepare a budget for each fund. The "State Liquid Fuels Fund" budget is based on the allocation received from the State to be used for expenses for road work only.

The "General Fund" budget is much more complex. In 2015, the income portion of the budget totaled \$1,785,659 which included a 2014 carryover of \$275,000, tax receipts of \$1,334,000, and other income of \$176,659.

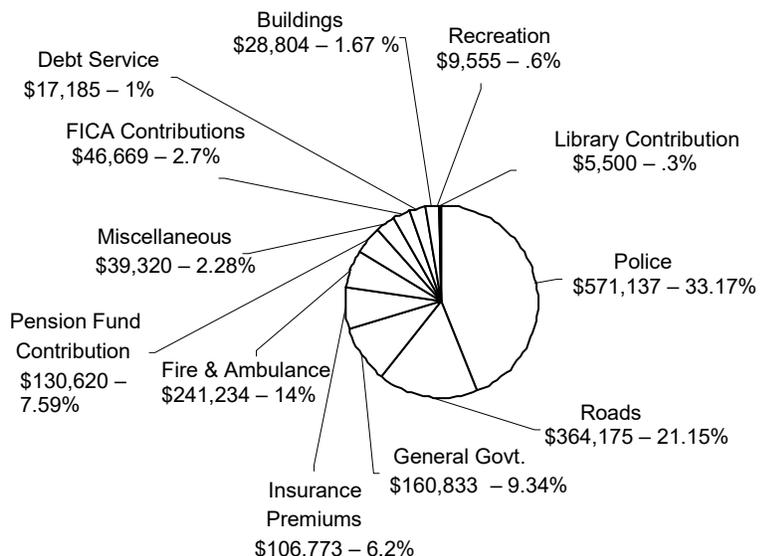
The actual tax receipts were \$1,348,112 and other income was \$264,386 which results in total 2015 income for the General Fund of \$1,612,498.

The 2015 expense budget totaled \$1,640,990 with a projected carryover of \$144,669. The chart shown below includes the amount of the **actual** expenditures for each category and the percentage of each category to the total expenditures which amounted to \$1,721,805.

The income portion of the 2016 budget totals \$1,883,519

and includes tax receipts of \$1,449,750, a carryover from 2015 of \$249,000 and other income of \$184,769. The expense budget totals \$1,707,915 with a projected carryover to 2017 of \$175,604.

Preparation of the 2017 budget will begin in October so that it can be adopted by the end of the year as required by law. The preliminary budget will be advertised in the Reading Eagle and will be open for inspection after approval by the Board of Supervisors.



**2015 General Fund Expenditures – Total \$1,721,805**

# Brecknock Township Parks and Recreation Board News

## 2016 Summer Playground Program

The Summer Playground Program was held at the Brecknock Elementary School again this year from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday thru Friday, June 13th to July 29th for ages 6 to 15. There were 40 children registered for the program this year, which is a decrease of 10 children from last year. Games and activities are planned each weekday by a staff of leaders. Thank you to our coordinator Ann Kline and for the daily organization of activities by the playground leaders. Registration forms, new guidelines and a Parent Handbook will be available after the first of the year for the **seven week** 2017 summer program at the Township office or by accessing the Brecknock Township website at [www.brecknockberks.com](http://www.brecknockberks.com). You are required to provide an email address on your registration for notification of weather delays and feedback on the program.

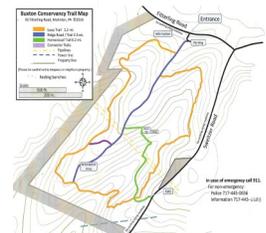
## Governor Mifflin Area Coordinating Council

A combination of elected and appointed Township officials are members of the GMACC.

In April 2012, a project committee of two to three representatives from each municipality and the Governor Mifflin School District met for the first time, to begin to explore regional cooperation and coordination opportunities, to prioritize options, and help to plan and implement regional improvements in the area. Last year all members agreed to work towards an Economic Development update of the Joint Comprehensive Plan targeting business districts and corridors in our region. The group received funding from the Russell L. Hiller grant for the County to do the update. The last time a Plan was done was in 2005. There have been significant demographic changes in the last 10 years. As part of that effort the GM School District sent out a survey in May to all residents of our District. Almost 200 of the 1200 respondents were from Brecknock. More than half of the total respondents said that the region needs to attract new businesses to help reduce the tax burden on residents. Likewise, nearly a quarter of survey participants felt that the number of vacant commercial buildings in the area ranked as the biggest issue facing the region. The results and action plan goals for Economic Development of our area will be available later in the year.

## Buxton Conservancy

The Buxton Conservancy is now open for passive recreation. Parking is outside the entrance gate and not on roadways. The new 1.2 mile loop trail, and the Ridge and Homestead trails are now completed (see new map below) and the meditation area is available for use by visitors. "Carry it in, Carry it out" is to be observed. Pets are welcomed on a leash on trails with clean-up by the pet's owner. Maps, as shown below, are available at the entrance kiosk along with the Rules and Regulations for use. We thank all the volunteers and especially the Boy Scouts who made this great facility available to us. Please respect the Conservancy and the neighbors surrounding the property.



## Friends of the Buxton Conservancy

Volunteers are encouraged to become members of the Buxton Conservancy Friends group to assist in sustainability, maintenance, and future development of the Conservancy for all to enjoy. Contact the Township office to become a member.

## Recreation Board Events

For information on all your Recreation Board events, please visit [www.brecknockberks.com](http://www.brecknockberks.com) under Parks and Recreation. Watch for details on upcoming events and activities including the annual Fall Festival to be held on September 24th this year, and the Reduced Price Ski Ticket sales this fall. Email notices are sent out as reminders to residents who are signed up for the email contact. Contact the Township office to register to have your email address included for all the important notices of Township activities.

### Recreation Board

Barbara McIntyre, Chair

David Verrill, Vice Chair

Donna Burkhart, Karl Peterson, Dennis Swartz



# Fall Festival



The Recreation Board and other Township volunteers are organizing the tenth annual **FALL FESTIVAL** for Township residents to be held rain or shine at the Township Building, 889 Alleghenyville Road on Saturday, **September 24, 2016 from noon to 4 PM**. This is a great day of enjoyment for your whole family to get to know your neighbors and learn about all the wonderful activities and services Brecknock Township has to offer. Planned events include:

Refreshments including \$1 hot dogs and burgers and homemade soup; pumpkins for the children; pumpkin painting; children’s activities including pony rides, children’s balloon twister and cotton candy; Conservancy open space display; Horse-Shoe Trail awareness display; participation by the police and fire departments; supported by our local Boy Scout Troop 241; as with the last six years, local Township artisans will be selling their wares.

The section of Alleghenyville Road from the intersection of Kramer Road to Maple Grove Road will be closed again this year.

- A sign will be placed at these intersections allowing Fall Festival and local traffic only.
- Parking will be perpendicular on the pavement on the south side of Alleghenyville Road
- As with many local farms, the land areas in the vicinity of the Township Building have been designated as “no till” planting zones
- Any unnecessary compaction of these soils is detrimental to the process. Please respect the fields around our Township Building designated as “no till”.

## Preventing Stormwater Runoff Pollution

Here are 10 things you can do to prevent stormwater runoff pollution.

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

EPA—United States Environmental Protection Agency  
For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps) or [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

### Allegheny Mennonite Meetinghouse

You are invited to a Hymn Sing at the Allegheny Mennonite Meetinghouse on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 2:00 PM. Adrian Nolt, Ephrata, PA will be leading hymns from *Hymns of the Church*. Hymn books will be provided. More information at 717-278-8459 or [jgsen@windstream.net](mailto:jgsen@windstream.net).

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

October 22, 2016—8 AM to 2 PM at First Energy Stadium (Rt. 61, Reading)  
Free for all Berks County residents  
No Commercial waste, no 55 gallon drums, no more than 200 lbs.

#### Battery Drop Off Sites:

East Penn Mfg., Lyon Station, PA  
Exide Corp., Reading, PA

**BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP**

**889 Alleghenyville Road**

**Mohnton, PA 19540-7708**



## Winter Snow Plowing Reminders

The winter season is still several months away, but there are a number of things to keep in mind that will help our road crew and residents during snowstorms.

**Vehicles should not be parked on the roadway or in the cul-de-sac area in developments.** Parked vehicles present a hazard for plow trucks and make the snow plowing job much harder as the trucks have to come back later to clear the area where the vehicle was parked. Please park vehicles in your driveway. Equipment such as basketball hoops, lawn ornaments, etc. should be moved away from the Township's right of way so that they are not accidentally damaged. The road crew does not intentionally push snow into driveways or around mailbox areas or damage grass areas along the side of the road. Mailboxes sometimes get damaged due to the weight of snow and ice that leaves the plow, so it is a good idea to make sure your mailbox and post are secured in the ground.

The main roads are plowed first. Cul-de-sac streets in developments are plowed so that residents can get in and out which means that the cul-de-sac area will usually be cleared completely at a later time (it may be the next day) since a smaller truck must be used. Please be patient—it will be done.

Our road crew will make every effort to clear the roads and development streets as quickly as possible this winter and will appreciate your patience and understanding. We all hope for a mild winter season.

