

Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

Autumn 2013 • Volume 9, Issue 3

Township Office 610-367-8500 Fax 610-367-0360 Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/douglass email: dougberks@comcast.net



Douglass Township Annual Community Day

Saturday October 5, 2013

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mark your calendar to join in on the fun

9:00 AM - the first event of the day is the 5K Trestle Run / 2 mile walk starting and ending at the Township building. The 5K loops through Ironstone Park, the walk turns around at the Glendale Pool. Registration forms for the race/walk can be found on the Township website, or at the office. Pre registration is preferred.



Activities Begin at 10 AM

Games * Hayrides * Music * Moon Bounce
Yard Sales & Crafts * Food * Face Painting Pumpkin
Decorating * Pony Rides (11-1:00) * Food Drive Pumpkin
Patch (bring your camera) * Local Businesses, Churches and
Fire Companies

To sign up for the yard sale / crafts : contact the Township Office at 610-367-8500, or dougberks@comcast.net to reserve a table - there is no fee

Volunteers are needed to work the day of the event. If you are interested, please contact the township office at 610-367-8500



Food Drive for the Boyertown Area Multi Service
(see page 2 for more details)

P A R K & R E C R E A T I O N

Yard Harbor

Stay at home vacations jumped in popularity when the economy bombed on us late in 2008. For many hard working Americans, protecting the savings account, catching up on chores around the house, and maybe taking a few short trips to local attractions replaced the dream vacation out west or packing the kids up for a trip to Disney.



While sticking around the house and making headway on your “to do” list doesn’t sound as interesting as a trip to say, Mount Rushmore or Old Faithful, there is a lot to be said for appreciating your own backyard. Picture yourself comfortably sunk into a lawn chair, an appropriate beverage in hand, gazing out on the wide, gently sweeping Schuylkill River. The coals on the nearby hibachi are just about ready, and you’re more relaxed than you can remember being in a long time... and you are fully enjoying the tranquility of Yard Harbor.

Your humble abode lacks a river view you say? Au contraire fellow citizen; if you’re on this newsletter mailing list, you live in Berks County’s Douglass Township and you, my friend, are a short trip from a small treasure trove of parks. Douglass Township is committed to the rural beauty that makes our area such a great place to live.

As it happens, 7 of the township’s 130 acres of designated parkland include Ganshawny Park. If you haven’t seen it, you owe it to yourself to work a short scouting run in to your busy schedule.

On the first trip pull in to the driveway, check out the parking, read a couple of the signs and head back out. Or, maybe, take 2 extra minutes, park the car, and walk toward the park benches near the water.

This is a little park with a neat history and a broad offering. Amenities in the seven acres include a small pavilion, currently spanning three sturdy picnic tables. There is no electricity, so plan accordingly. Four additional picnic tables, arranged in two groves of two, each sharing a grill, are perfectly positioned near the water’s edge to allow you to soak in the tranquility of the mature trees and beautiful river.

Your dog is welcome; there is a pet station to make it convenient for you to clean up Fido’s business and for you to be a considerate and responsible neighbor. There is also a well with a hand pump in case you want to rinse Fido off, but be advised the water has not been tested and you should not drink it.

This is a great spot for a cozy picnic. You can toss in a fishing line and breathe in your little piece of the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area. Or, if you prefer your recreation a little more on the active side you may be interested in knowing there is a boat ramp and you can venture out on to the Pennsylvania water trail in your kayak or launch your small boat from its trailer.

Plug these coordinates into your digital navigator: 343 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglassville, PA 19512. If you are headed west on Old Philadelphia Pike, you’ll pass under Route 422, and almost immediately you’ll come upon the park entrance on your left. An old canoe hanging upside down with “Ganshawny” painted on the side welcomes you in to the park and starts your short journey to another world. Welcome to one of the great benefits of your township. Welcome to Yard Harbor.



-Pete Dannecker

**Boyertown Area Multi Service Food Drive in Douglass Township**

The Township will be hosting a food drive for the Multi-Service from September 15 through Community Day on October 5th. Their top priority needs:: Tuna / Canned Meats, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Baked Beans / Vegetables, Condiments: Mayo / Mustard / Ketchup, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Beverages- Juices & Drink Mixes, Paper Towels / Tissues / Napkins, Dish Soap / Laundry Detergent, Spaghetti Sauce / Pasta

Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Pasta: Spaghettios, Ravioli, Personal Care Products: Bar Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Deodorant.



**Berks County Recycling Collection
Free to Berks County Residents
2013**

www.co.berks.pa.us/swa

Household Hazardous Waste

October 19, 2013 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

Pharmaceutical Collection

October 12, 2013 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

Electronic Recycling Center

Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8:00 AM - Noon, 1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport (near the Reading Fairgrounds). All electronics are accepted. Anything that plugs in or runs on batteries.

Douglass Drive Resurfacing - Douglass Drive overlay was completed this summer from Pine Forge Road to Reading Avenue. This project has been planned for the past two years, with all base repair completed in anticipation of the project. The project cost was \$265,000 which 80% was paid for with Liquid Fuels funds the Township receives from the State, the other 20% was taken from Township Capital Reserves.

Goose Run Park Eagle Scout Project

Many thanks and Congratulations to Township resident Matthew Ross. Matthew is a member of Troop 523, and has reached the level of Eagle Scout in part due to his project of creating a parking lot at the Goose Run Park, Colebrookdale road entrance. Thanks Matthew for your fine work!

HUNTING ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES REQUIRES TOWNSHIP PERMITS

Douglass Township once again is permitting hunting on Township land for Township residents who have hunting licenses from the State. The season for hunting on Township property is September 21 through January 25, 2014. Permits, which are mandatory are issued at the Township office during regular business hours. Hunting areas are the 85 acres known as Goose Run Park as well as the 75 acres of open space the Township owns in the area of 900 Douglass Drive. Residents are permitted to bring one non-Township resident as a guest. Guests must also be registered with the Township.

P O L I C E D E P A R T M E N T

From Chief Franke.....

School is open again, and busses fill our roads at various times during the day... be mindful of them, their cargo... our precious children, and drive accordingly. If you leave late, you will run late... the same with snow, ice, and rain... drive no faster than the distance you can stop suddenly in during an emergency condition.

As we approach the Holiday Season, the days of Holiday Shopping will increase, as will the days of Holiday thefts. We must be mindful of our safety and security as well as for the things we value around our home. Remember to lock your doors, secure gifts in the trunk of your car when shopping, be mindful of where your credit card goes, and with whom. Many unscrupulous people will work harder at getting your money than earning their own... do not be misled.

The ability to fall into the many scams that are surfacing is easy today, and we are finding so many who will believe that the governmental agencies can contact you and ask you to go to a shopping store to western union them money. No government that I am aware of, will e-mail or call you and ask you to pay a fine on line or through a Western Union telegram. In America, we use a WARRANT system to arrest people, and with the exception of being stopped by police, or something coming from the Court, the only way you will be asked to use your credit card is if YOU got a fine, and are paying it on a government website. Don't fall for the scams that will take your money, if you are concerned and unsure, please call your local or state police and inquire about your situation. If a grandchild is traveling abroad, know their schedule, and beware of the calls saying they got arrested and need money to pay a fine... this has taken many of dollars from people. Also, if someone comes to your door, be sure they are who they say they are... ask to see ID, and if you are still unsure, ask them to wait until you call the organization they represent.

Douglass Township

Berks County

1068 Douglass Drive

Boyertown, PA 19512

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DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2013

Elected and Appointed Officials

Township Supervisors

Chairman Douglass Rhoads

Vice Chairman Grant Yervey

Supervisor Rosemarie Bauman

Township Solicitor - The Law Firm of Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin - Joseph McGrory, Esq.

Township Engineer/Zoning Officer/Sewage Enforcement
Systems Design Engineering, Inc. - Thomas Unger, P.E.

Tax Collector - Mary K. Heimbach

Township Manager - Toni L. Hemerka

Treasurer / Clerk - Roseann Garman

Public Works Department - Harold Wagner Jr., Roadmaster;
Charles Miller; Terry Seyler

Police Department - Chief David K. Franke, Sergeant John W. Dzurek, Patrolman Nicole L. Marth, PT Patrolman Christopher Sacks and Robert Wood

Elected Auditors: Cheryl Baro, Shirley Birmingham, Linwood Dunning

Planning Commission - Gary Twardowski, Chairman, Kenneth Kirch, Vice Chairman, Peter Dannecker, Richard Stoudt and Patricia Follweiler

Zoning Hearing Board - Joseph Cioa, Chairman, Eugene Rinehimer, Vice Chairman, Dr. David Szymanski, Alan Golden, David Babb, Solicitor Eugene Orlando Esq.

Park & Recreation Board -Richard Zuber, Chairman
Pete Dannecker, Vice Chairman, Lawrence Martin, Michael Yarnall, Eileen Gilbert, Sally Stetler

Agricultural Security Committee - Robert Shaner, Donald Grim, David Howerter, Warren Lloyd, Douglass Rhoads

2013 Township Meetings:

Board of Supervisors: 7:00 PM -Jan. 7, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8, May13, June 10, July 8, August 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, and Dec. 9

Planning Commission: 7:00 PM -Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, May14, June 18, July 16, August 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17

Park and Recreation Committee: 7:00 PM - Jan. 8, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, Sept. 3, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2

Zoning Hearing Board: 7:00 PM the 4th Monday of the month as needed

Agricultural Security Area Committee - 6:00 PM Sept. 9