

# Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

FEBRUARY 2014 • Volume 10, Issue 1

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](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/douglass) email: [dougberks@comcast.net](mailto:dougberks@comcast.net)

## Douglass Township Park & Recreation Committee

Annual

### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12, 2014

@

Douglass Township Municipal Building 10AM

Children MUST be pre-registered by Monday, April 7, 2014

Open to Douglass Township residents and their families

For all children up to and including 6th grade age

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE

In case of rain, it will be held in the Township building



#### HAPPY RETIREMENT

Charlie Miller has worked on the Township road crew for 33 years, and decided it was time to enjoy retirement. Thank you Charlie for your dedication to Douglass Township. We wish you good health and the best of luck.

#### WELCOME

After conducting a search for a new road crew member, we were lucky to find William Dunn. Bill became a member of the road crew in December 2013 and has fit in as a great asset to the Township. We wish Bill many years here in Douglass Township.

#### HELP WANTED

There is an opening on the Douglass Township Planning Commission. The Planning Commission consists of five residents who serve as volunteers appointed by the Board of Supervisors for staggered four-year terms.

The Planning Commission is an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors. Its primary function is to review subdivisions and land development plans, and to make recommendations regarding these matters to the Board of Supervisors.

The Planning Commission meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township building.

If you are interested in serving, please contact the Township office.

#### 2014 Election Dates

May 20 - Primary Election

November 4 - General Election

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



Community Day 2013 was a great success where a record crowd enjoyed an afternoon of: games, hayrides, live music, moon bounce, yard sales, crafts, pumpkin decorating, face painting, pony rides, local business and churches.

Held the first Saturday of October each year, Community Day is a great way to connect with your community. For more details and pictures, check out the township website. Hope to see you all this year on October 4, 2014.





**N E W S B I T S****Berks County Recycling Collection  
Free to Berks County Residents  
2014**

[www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa)

**Household Hazardous Waste**

April 19 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School and October 18 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

**Pharmaceutical Collection and Shredding Event**

April 26 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School and October 11 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.

Check out the Berks County website under the Solid Waste Authority at [www.countyofberks.com/swa](http://www.countyofberks.com/swa) for more details on all recycling offered to the residents of Berks County. Information is also available at the Township office.

In the wake of the Boyertown recycling center closure, we lost an important local option for recycling. Douglass Township made every effort to start a new recycling center through the County program. Unfortunately, we were told that due to budget cuts, it would not be possible.

There are several alternatives available for recycling. Some private trash haulers offer recycling pickup. There is also the option of drop off at the landfill in Earl Township. The Delaware Valley Landfill is obligated by contract with Berks County to accept recyclables from all Berks County residents. They are located at 583 Longview Road. Directions to the landfill are: Route 73 west, left on Chapel Lane (fruitstand across from Earl Elementary School), left on Longview Lane, Right on Shankel Road. Their recycling center is open to the public Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm.

**Pine Forge Historical Society**

Along with their many activities, the Society has begun a new Youth Program for children ages 5-12. For more information on becoming a member, or their other activities, contact Phyllis Mitchell at [tutorphyl@gmail.com](mailto:tutorphyl@gmail.com) or 610-367-7881.

**Fire Tax**

Fire services are vital to every resident of our Township, and while they rely heavily on volunteer support, they are not free.

Douglass Township is fortunate to be served by several fire companies. Amity Fire and Rescue, and West End Fire Companies serve the southern portion of the Township and the northern portion is served by Boyertown Friendship Hook and Ladder and Keystone Fire Companies.

The merging of fire companies has become a prominent trend across the country. By pooling resources, including people and equipment, better services can be provided to the residents.

Boyertown stations Friendship Hook & Ladder, and Keystone, along with Liberty from Bechtelsville are in the process of such a merger.

They are planning to complete the transition in July of this year. This has been the result of a lengthy collective effort of all those involved to create a single new company that will be called the Boyertown Area Fire and Rescue Inc. (BAF&R). This merger is expected to create a stronger, more efficient and more solvent organization

The Township budget has included donations to each of the four companies serving the Township. The \$7,000 per year that Douglass Township contributes to each company is no longer enough to cover our fair share. In view of this, the Supervisors have decided to implement a Fire Tax. The new tax has been set at 0.3 mils, which means that for each \$100,000 of assessed value of your property, you will be taxed \$30 per year. It was a difficult decision for the supervisors to impose this new tax.

This new tax will generate \$56,000 per year which will be divided between BAF&R, Amity and West End in proportion to the area they serve in Douglass Township.

This tax will be reflected on your tax bill that is mailed March 1st. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact the Township office.

Thank you for all your positive comments regarding the Township road crew and the great job they have done keeping the Township roads clear of snow and ice.

They are definitely looking forward to Spring!

# Douglass Township

Berks County  
1068 Douglass Drive  
Boyertown, PA 19512

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

STANDARD  
POSTAGE  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID PERMIT  
NO. 10029  
BOYERTOWN, PA  
19512

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

## **Elected and Appointed Officials**

### **Township Supervisors**

Chairman Douglass Rhoads  
Vice Chairman Grant Yerger  
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;  
Terry Seyler; William Dunn

**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, Patricia Follweiler and  
Grant Yerger

**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

### **2014 Township Meetings:**

**Board of Supervisors:** 7:00 PM -January 6, February 10,  
March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11,  
September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8.

**Planning Commission:** 7:00 PM -January 21, February 18,  
March 18, April 15, May 21, June 17, July 15, August 19,  
September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

**Park and Recreation Committee:** February 3, March 3, April  
7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 2, October 6,  
November 3, and December 1.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** 7:00 PM the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month  
as needed

**Agricultural Security Area Committee:** 6:00 September 9