



"The First Douglass"

Douglass Township

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

1068 Douglass Drive
Boyertown, PA 19512OFFICE 610-367-8500
FAX 610-367-0360

POLICE 610-367-9474

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:30AM - 5:00PMwww.co.berks.pa.us/douglass

DATE CHANGES FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS The meetings, usually scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month, will instead be held on the second Monday of the month for the remainder of 2009.

REVISED 2009 DATES • OCTOBER 12, NOVEMBER 9, DECEMBER 14

PROPERTY FOR SALE * 899 DOUGLASS DRIVE



Sealed bids are currently being accepted by the Township for Lot #2 on the property at 899 Douglass Drive. This parcel includes the house, the barn, and 12 acres. It is the smallest of 3 subdivided, deed-restricted lots on 86-acres purchased by the Township in 2007. Bidding will close at 4PM on November 9, 2009. Bids will be opened at the November 9 Board of Supervisors meeting, which will begin at 7PM.

Interested bidders will be able to inspect the property at an open house on Sunday, October 11, 2009, from 1PM-4PM. The first of two open houses was held on September 20.

Bid packets can be purchased at the Township Office for \$10. Feel free to contact the Township Manager during regular business hours with any questions.

Hunting in Douglass Township

SEASON RUNS SEPTEMBER 19, 2009 — JANUARY 23, 2010

- ▶ All hunters must register with Douglass Township, and must provide a copy of their PA State Hunting License.
- ▶ All hunters must sign an official form stating that they agree to comply with PA State Laws and Douglass Township Rules.*
- ▶ Use of rifles is strictly prohibited due to a Township insurance restriction. Otherwise, all hunters must act in accordance with PA State Game Commission Rules and Regulations.
- ▶ Residents are permitted one non-resident guest hunter. Registration is required.

* A safety zone of 150 yards from any occupied residence for the use of firearms, and 50 yards from any occupied residence for the use of archery is in effect. Hunting is prohibited anywhere in the Township on Sundays.

LEGAL LOCATIONS

Goose Run Park
Approximately 82 acres

The hiking trail will remain open, so please exercise caution.

**900 Douglass Drive
Lots #1 and #3**
Approximately 73 acres

Maps are available at the Township office.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS ENRICH TOWNSHIP PARKS

As those involved with Scouting already know, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is a significant accomplishment, requiring a great deal of focus and work. Andrew Kastenbaum and Sean Conley each initiated a community improvement project as a demonstration of leadership that is part of this extensive process.



Andrew Kastenbaum • Troop 523 LED CONSTRUCTION OF LOG BRIDGES IN GOOSE RUN PARK

With the help of about 15 people—his father, other Boy Scouts, their parents, and his girlfriend—Andy led the planning and construction of two log bridges in the park. Younger Scouts dug shallow gullies and trenches to drain water, while older scouts and their parents chopped and shaped the logs with axes, and then hauled them into place. People walking on the trail are now able to cross over deeper gullies and ravines created by run-off feeding into Goose Run Creek.

Supervisor Doug Rhoads sponsored the Eagle project on behalf of the Township, and provided trail design references that Andy and his father used to plan the most appropriate bridges for the site.

Andy is the son of Doug and Joan Kastenbaum, of Douglass Drive. He is in his senior year at Boyertown Area High School.

Goose Run Park is located just off of Colebrookdale Road, with entrances across from Pine Forge Road, and on Levensgood Road.

Thank You, Andy and Sean, for choosing projects that have improved Township parks.

Sean Conley • Troop 533 LED REBUILDING OF HORSESHOE PITS AND CONSTRUCTION OF “WELCOME” SIGN AT IRONSTONE PARK

With assistance of family and fellow Scouts, Sean led the rebuilding of official-size quoit and horseshoe pits inside the park. They also constructed a “Welcome to Ironstone Park” sign and placed it near the park entrance on Grist Mill Road. The Township sponsored the project, and P&L Home Products donated some of the materials.

Sean is the son of Scott and Mary Conley of Poole Hill Road. He is in his freshman year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in psychology.



Codification of Township Ordinances

Keystone Publishers, Inc., recently completed the process of codification of Township laws, and the Board of Supervisors approved their work. Codification is the procedure of collecting and restating Township laws. Douglass Township has 183 Ordinances dating back to 1949. (The very first Ordinance was to open Cedar Lane.) Codification ensures accurate interpretation by compiling all ordinances and amendments into one up-to-date document called the Code of Ordinances. The final Code will be available on the township Web site very soon. The following Table of Contents will precede the Code of Ordinances.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▶ Administration & Government | ▶ Fire Prevention & Protection | ▶ Licenses, Permits, & General Business Regulations | ▶ Sewers & Sewage Disposal | ▶ Storm water Management |
| ▶ Animals | ▶ Floodplains | ▶ Motor Vehicles & Traffic | ▶ Streets & Sidewalks | ▶ Taxation |
| ▶ Code Enforcement | ▶ Health & Safety | | ▶ Subdivision & Land Development | ▶ Zoning |
| ▶ Conduct | ▶ Housing | | | |

New Program Being Considered for Douglass

At the July Douglass Township Planning Commission Meeting, a representative of the Brandywine Conservancy gave a presentation on a land-use tool called Transferable Development Rights (TDR). The tool may provide a fair and cost-effective means of preserving agricultural and open space, while maintaining landowner equity and providing for development. This program is in the preliminary stages of consideration for Douglass Township.

How landowners benefit For example, Landowner A, whose property is in a designated preservation area, is given an option—rather than a mandate—to sell his or her development rights. This property is then established as a “sending zone” under TDR program guidelines. Landowners or developers in areas designated for future growth—known as “receiving zones”—would then be able to purchase and apply Landowner A’s development rights to enhance their own property’s development value.

How a TDR program would be established Based on recommendations from the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors would establish the TDR program through a zoning ordinance. Important decisions need to be made before an ordinance would be enacted. Among those decisions would be the identification of sending and receiving zones, and defining an accurate method for calculating development-right values. Preservation value and suitability for development are two major factors in determining how to best allocate the sending and receiving zones.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Last year the Board of Supervisors approved the Township’s first Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), setting aside money for items costing more than \$5,000 that are to be purchased in 2009. Separate from the annual operating budget, the CIP is intended to prioritize purchases and identify larger expenses required to update Township facilities and equipment. The CIP is used to ensure that Township needs are provided for through long-term financial planning. Setting aside funds assures that adequate assets are available when needed for larger purchases, and eases the burden on the annual operating budget.

The CIP will be reviewed and approved each year along with the operating budget for the upcoming year. This account is funded through budgeted installments the Township has accumulated over the years. Proceeds from sales of replaced items (such as used police vehicles) are also placed in this fund.

The list below indicates which items were purchased in 2009 and added to existing inventory, and provides a general guide to how purchases are determined.

■ **Public Works Vehicles • CURRENT INVENTORY: Two pickup trucks, 1991, 2008; three dump trucks with snow plows, 1991, 1996, 2000.** A new F550 with plow was purchased in 2009. Smaller trucks are expected to last 10 years from date of purchase/service entry before being replaced, while larger trucks are expected to last 20 years.

■ **Public Works Equipment • CURRENT INVENTORY: Grader, 1973; loader, 1978; backhoe, 1996; and several mowers.** The Township plans to replace the grader and loader after 20 years from the date of purchase/service entry. We plan to replace the backhoe after 15 years, and the mowers every 15 years as well.

■ **Buildings/Grounds • Salt shed, truck garage, equipment garage.** A new pole building is being constructed in 2009 for equipment storage. New doors were installed on the garage in 2008.

■ **Police Department • CURRENT INVENTORY: Four cars, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009; one police dog.** The Township replaces police cars after 4 to 5 years from date of purchase/service entry. This excludes the classic 1958 Chevy Biscayne.

Elected and Appointed Officials

SUPERVISORS

Chairman **Rosemarie Bauman**
Vice Chairman **Douglass Rhoads**
Supervisor **Dorothy R. Pulcher**

Township Solicitor **The law firm of Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin**
Township Engineer **Systems Design Engineers Inc.**
Sewage Enforcement Officer **Tom Unger**
Township Manager **Toni Hemerka**
managerdouglass@comcast.net
Township Treasurer/Clerk **Brenda Sturdevant**
Tax Collector **Mary K. Heimbach**
Emergency Management Director **Chief of Police David Franke**

Vacancy Board **Pete Danneker**

ROAD CREW

Roadmaster **John Groff; Charles Miller, Terry Seyler**

AUDITORS

Chairman **Victor “Ed” Mease**
Secretary **Cheryl Baro**
Shirley Birmingham

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman **Gary Twardowski**
Vice Chairman **Kenneth Kirch, Richard Stoudt, Warren Lloyd, Grant Yergey**

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Chairman **Joseph Cioa**
Vice Chairman **Eugene Rinehimer**
Dr. David Szymanski, Alan Golden, David Babb

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Chairman **Richard Zuber**
Lesia Surman, Pete Dannecker, Lawrance Martin, Michael Yarnall

AGRICULTURE SECURITY AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Donald Grim, David Howerter, Warren Lloyd, Dorothy R. Pulcher, Robert Shaner

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE APPEALS BOARD

Alex Guzik, Donna Howard, Robert Calahan

The Township Web site, www.co.berks.pa.us/Douglass, has links to local, state, and federal government sites, along with meeting minutes, budget, announcements, and more.

Submit newsletter articles to managerdouglass@comcast.net

If you prefer a pdf rather than a paper copy, e-mail managerdouglass@comcast.net

DOUGLASS/BERKS NEWSLETTER

Content **Toni Hemerka**
Editing and Design **Rita Baker**

Douglass Township

Berks County
1068 Douglass Drive
Boyertown, PA 19512

STANDARD
POSTAGE
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID PERMIT
NO. 10029

BOYERTOWN, PA
19512

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Your Douglass Township Newsletter Is Here!

From the Desk of Dave Franke | Douglass Township Chief of Police

SCHOOL IS OPEN, DRIVE WITH CARE

Let's review Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, to ensure the safety of our community's children as they wait roadside for busing to and from school.

- ▶ You must stop any moving vehicles whenever you come upon a school bus with red signal lights flashing, regardless of which lane you are driving in.
- ▶ You should never pass a bus from behind that has red signal lights flashing.
- ▶ Your car must be at least 10 feet away from a bus that is loading or unloading children, and the car must remain stopped in place until all children have reached a place of safety.
- ▶ The only time you do not have to stop is when a school bus is loading or unloading on a highway that is clearly divided by concrete median barriers, guide rails, trees, shrubs, rocks, boulders, grass, and so forth.

TO SEE PHOTOGRAPHS DEMONSTRATING PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW TRAFFIC SITUATIONS, GO TO www.dmv.state.pa.us AND FOLLOW THESE LINKS: **Information Centers > School Bus > School Bus Stopping Law Fact Sheet**

Q. Is it okay for me to drive my car over the cement divider on Benjamin Franklin Highway?

A. Stay off of the divider! This is a divided highway, and PennDOT recently confirmed that cement barriers are placed to keep people on the side of the highway they are driving on.

JOIN THE DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Douglass Township Emergency Management Agency is seeking help with logistics during local emergency response efforts.

The time commitment is small, and the need is great, as is the reward that comes from helping others. If you don't want to fight fires or go on ambulance calls, but you'd still like to help, this may be for you. Contact Chief Franke at the Township office to get more information. Training is free.