



"The First Douglass"

# Douglass Township

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

1068 Douglass Drive  
Boyertown, PA 19512

OFFICE 610-367-8500  
FAX 610-367-0360

POLICE 610-367-9474

OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
8:30AM - 5:00PM

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

## Douglass Township Open House

Saturday, June 20, 2009 • 11AM-2PM

Township Building, 1068 Douglass Drive

### 11AM-2PM • MEET ELECTED OFFICIALS & STAFF

Talk one-on-one with the Board of Supervisors • Rose Bauman, Doug Rhoads, and Dorothy Pulcher •  
Douglass Township Police Department • Township Manager, Toni Hemerka • Treasurer/Clerk, Brenda Sturdevant

### 11AM-1PM • I.D. ME CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM FINGERPRINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHS

This program enhances the Code Amber Alert System. If it ever became necessary, your child's photograph, and demographics would be sent to the PA State Police for submission to the Code Amber Alert organization.

As part of the *I.D. Me* Child Identification Program, the Berks County Sheriffs Department will be on site for fingerprinting and photographing your children at no cost. *For more information go to [www.co.berks.pa.us/sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/sheriff)*

### 12PM • POLICE DOG DEMONSTRATION

Sergeant John Dzurek and "Bo" will demonstrate Bo's capabilities.

### 12AM-2PM • LUNCH

Free hot dogs and soda will be provided.

▶ Come and check out the Township's 1958 Chevy Biscayne DARE vehicle which will be on display along with Township trucks. Bring your camera and take pictures of your children in the police cars and with the officers.

▶ Children and adults will receive handouts, including "Cop Cards," which are baseball-like trading cards with each police officer's picture and biography.\*

\* Cop Cards are sponsored in full by the following Township businesses and organizations: Douglassville Auto Body, EMMS Electric Inc., Goodwest Industries Inc., COS-WIN Inc, Protocast Inc., and Allegheny East Conference.

## Please join us!

We look forward to the opportunity  
to meet those we serve.



## Douglass Township Adds Another Officer

In December 2008, Nicole Marth became the newest member of our police department. Nicole, her husband, Phil, and their son are Berks County residents, having recently moved here from Delaware County.

There are two other police officers in Nicole's family. Her father retired from a 40-year career as a police officer in Delaware County, and her husband currently works in law enforcement.

Nicole is a welcome addition to the force. Douglass Township now has three full-time officers and one part-time officer, enabling us to provide greater police coverage.



### Nicole Marth

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cheyney University Police Department • 2000-2004  
West Grove, Oxford, and Kennett Square police departments, part-time • 2003-2009

#### EDUCATION

Chichester High School • 1994  
Delaware County Community College Police Academy • 1999

### Q. When am I required to pull my car over?

**A.** The law in Pennsylvania requires you to pull over for any emergency vehicle using the responders red, or red and blue lights, and/or if a siren is sounding. When this happens, you must pull over to the safest available location and allow the vehicle to pass.

You aren't required to pull over for responders with blue lights, as they are courtesy lights. However, they may belong to a volunteer responding to someone's burning house or medical emergency.

If a police vehicle stays behind you, you may be the person of interest. Other types of emergency vehicles may be responding to an incident and need to get there quickly. Unfortunately, in those situations drivers often fail to pull over, or make matters worse by slowing down, hoping the emergency vehicle passes them when traffic clears.

## Pennsylvania's Steer Clear Law

Pennsylvania's legislators passed a law on September 8, 2006 that requires drivers to move at least one lane away when approaching an emergency scene, police stop, or tow truck picking up a disabled vehicle along a highway. If no additional lane is available or is inaccessible because of traffic or other conditions, then drivers must pass the emergency response area at a reduced, careful speed. Drivers cited for breaking this law face a fine of up to \$250 plus court costs, and could potentially have their operator privileges suspended.

The law is intended to protect those who must stand along the highway as a result of their jobs, and to punish those who do not voluntarily move over for the workers protection.

### Taking a Vacation? Let Us Know

By notifying the Township Police of your vacation plans and providing the dates your house will be vacant, we can keep an extra eye on your house and be on the lookout for any unauthorized activity while you are away.

Check out our Web site for a form you can fill out and send to us, or call the Township office and provide the following information: name, address, emergency phone number, emergency contact name, vacation dates, names and phone numbers of anyone authorized to be at your house in your absence, any cars in the driveway, which lights have been left on, and alarm system information.

This information will remain completely confidential and will be used only for the purpose of helping to protect your property while you're away.

## STOP DUMPING IN DOUGLASS

Rural townships often have a fair share of people who illegally dump trash, furniture, tires, or more along our roads.

In 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to encourage those who have witnessed illegal dumping to report the activity. The resolution was written jointly with the county's *Stop Dumping on Berks* program to combat illegal dumping.

Help us keep our Township clean by reporting anyone you see illegally dumping trash in Douglass Township by calling the tip line at 888-NEXT TIP or by calling the Township office.

# Township News & Notes

## REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO BURNING DOMESTIC REFUSE

We are now into the warm weather, and many residents open their windows for fresh air. When burning trash, please be mindful of how the

smoke affects your neighbors. If you are a resident with concerns about any burning that is taking place, please call the Township during the incident. The Township Ordinance sets the following regulations:

- ▶ Outdoor burning of domestic refuse shall be in an approved burning barrel or other approved incinerator.
- ▶ The container must be solid, sturdy steel. It must have both a steel bottom with ventilation holes, and an open top, which during outdoor burning must be covered by a steel spark-arresting screen.
- ▶ Burning shall be attended at all times by an adult.
- ▶ Burning is not allowed within 25 feet of any building or other structure or on any road, alley, or public walkway.
- ▶ The burning trash must be completely extinguished before sunset.

## ANNUAL CLOSING OF PINE FORGE ROAD

Allegheny East Conference will be holding their annual church retreat/encampment from June 25–July 5, 2009. Pine Forge Road will be closed from Douglass Drive to Glendale Drive for that period of time.

## 2008 PURCHASE OF 899 DOUGLASS DRIVE

Last year the Township supervisors voted to purchase the 86-acre farm located at 899 Douglass Drive as part of the agricultural and open-space preservation program initiated in 2006. Zoning, land purchase, development-rights purchase, and development-rights transfer are ways to accomplish preservation. The property at 899 Douglass Drive was acquired as a land purchase for \$950,000. The intention is to sell some or all of the land in the future, while preserving the agricultural and open space value. To accomplish this, the property has been subdivided into 3 large parcels and deed-restricted to prevent further subdivision by future owners. The smallest of the three lots, including the house, barn, and 12 acres, will be offered for sale later this year. The property sale will be conducted using a bidding process, as required by the Second Class Township Code. The Township is currently preparing to advertise the sale in various newspapers and magazines to promote a competitive bidding process. If you would like more information, please contact the Township office.

## DEMOLITION OF PINE FORGE CHAPEL

The chapel on Pine Forge Road had deteriorated to the point of being beyond restoration and had become structurally unsafe. Therefore it was condemned by the Township.

The building is owned by the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association. In May, the Alumni Association arranged for the building to be disassembled by the Amity Heritage Society. Charles Miller led the effort and painstakingly took the structure apart piece by piece. There was very little waste and the Society will store the building pieces with the hopes of using them to restore other historical buildings. For more information on the Amity Heritage Society visit their web site at [www.amityheritagesociety.org](http://www.amityheritagesociety.org)

*Charles Miller at work dismantling the Pine Forge Chapel*



## 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](mailto:managerdouglass@comcast.net)  
Township Treasurer/Clerk **Brenda Sturdevant**  
Tax Collector **Mary K. Heimbach**  
Emergency Management Director **Police Chief 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**  
**Lesa 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](http://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](mailto:managerdouglass@comcast.net)

If you prefer a pdf rather than a paper copy, e-mail [managerdouglass@comcast.net](mailto:managerdouglass@comcast.net)

### DOUGLASS/BERKS NEWSLETTER

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

# Douglass Township

Berks County  
1068 Douglass Drive  
Boyertown, PA 19512

STANDARD  
POSTAGE  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID PERMIT  
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BOYERTOWN, PA  
19512

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## Your Douglass Township Newsletter is Here!

### PENNSYLVANIA HOME IMPROVEMENT CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 132

Effective July 1, 2009, consumers who hire contractors to perform home improvements on residential properties will be offered new legal protection.

Written contracts are required between the contractor and consumer when the total cash price of all work agreed upon exceeds \$500. Contained in the law are provisions for criminal penalties for home-improvement fraud and civil penalties for violations.

Under the act contractors must include their registration number in all contracts, estimates, proposals, and advertising.

To check the status of a contractor's registration, consumers should contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection by visiting [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) or by calling 717-772-2425. A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is also available at the Web site.

## 2010 Census

Since 1790, the U.S. Constitution has required a national census be taken once every 10 years to count the entire population.

You may have already seen census workers in your area. They were surveying existing homes in a given district comparing information to current records. The data collected is a guide for planning new hospitals and schools, and is used to determine allocation of funds for additional community and social services, so your participation is important. Every year, the government allocates more than \$300 billion in federal funds to states and communities based on census data.

### CENSUS HISTORY • 1950

*By 1950 The Census Bureau employed highly skilled men and women to maintain and custom-build the agency's machinery, like this mechanical punch card sorter.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The census data also determines number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and helps define the boundaries of legislative districts.

The Census Bureau will mail 2010 questionnaires next April, requesting that each person take a few minutes to answer some simple questions and return the completed form by mail.

The law protects the confidentiality of your response. The Census Bureau neither shares nor releases information that identifies individual respondents or their households for 72 years.

For more information, visit the official Web site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)