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Berks County
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Boyertown, PA 19512

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DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

The Revival of Glendale Pool

In 1963, Douglass Township residents Edward and Ruth Peterson donated a tract of land on Grist Mill Road to be used for construction of Glendale Swimming Association. Since its opening in 1964, GSA, also called Glendale Pool, has continually served the community. The Pool has been through many phases since it first opened. After many successful years throughout the 1960's and '70's, the primarily volunteer run organization lost membership due to the natural cycle of families growing up and no longer spending their summer days at the pool. The advent of central air conditioning, more people building backyard pools, and lack of advertising also took its toll on pool membership. Thanks in large part to the efforts and contributions of a few longtime residents and GSA board members, the pool was fastidiously maintained throughout the 1980's and '90's. Improvements were required as time went on, but GSA was stuck in the position of not having the funds to make needed upgrades and being unable to attract new members because of the facility's decline.

In 2007, a small group of volunteers took up the task of resuscitating Glendale Pool for the long-term benefit of community residents. The past four seasons have been challenging, but GSA volunteers have worked very hard, and notable improvements have been made. Among them: bringing the electrical system up to code, plumbing, painting, and masonry repairs. There has also been strong emphasis on advertising to the community. Late in 2009, Glendale Pool received a significant monetary donation that allowed for the big pool and kiddie pool to be repainted for the 2010 season, and for purchase of a state of the art pool vacuum. Now both pools look great and are able to be kept very clean. It's the perfect place to go and take a cooling dip on hot summer days.

Special events are held throughout the season, including monthly Family Fun Nights, a dance party, movie night, and more. Swimming lessons were held in June, and will be taught again in August. To learn more about these events as well as family, couples, and single memberships, holding a party or company picnic at the pool, mid-season membership discounts, and weekend day-rate information, go to www.glendalepool.org, or call Amy McBlane at 610-369-7069.



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BERKS COUNTY

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2010

Volume 6, Issue 2

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY DAY

Douglass Township is hosting the first annual 'Douglass Township Community Day' on October 2, 2010. The event will be held at the Douglass Township municipal building, with a fun filled schedule starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. The first event of the day is a 5K run and 2 mile walk through the community, starting at the township building. Plans are still being finalized by the Park and Recreation Board, with the tentative schedule including:

- 5K Run ◆
- 2 Mile Walk ◆
- K9 Demonstration ◆
- Moon Bounce ◆
- Food
- ID Me – child safety program ◆
- Local Fire Companies Displays ◆
- More to be announced

The purpose of the Community Day is to celebrate the fellowship of the township residents and all that our township has to offer. Stay tuned for more information through the next newsletter and the Township web site.

We look forward to seeing you at the Douglass Township Community Day on 10/2/2010.



The 2010 Federal Census is nearing the finish line. The Census is safe and confidential and we ask that you cooperate with Census takers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 72% of the nation's households mailed back their census forms. There are about 635,000 Census takers that are going door to door to follow up with those who did not return their form. For more information check out their website at www.2010census.gov, or call the U.S. Census Bureau at toll-free (866) 872-6868.

HACK FOR COY

TO RITA BAKER:

For several years, Rita Baker has been the editor and designer for the Township newsletter.

Because this is her profession, we have been very fortunate to have Rita donate her talents for the newsletter creation.

Due to work constraints, Rita is no longer able to continue as the Newsletter Editor. We thank her so much for her time and creativity she offered to the Township.

2010 ROAD WORK – With the State provided Liquid Fuels Funds, this summer there will be milling and an overlay done on Winding Road from Colebrookdale to Locust Road. There will patching done on Douglass Drive and drainage pipes replaced on South Sunrise Lane. With money that has been set aside for capital improvements, the Township Building parking lot will also be milled and paved.

Recent Addition – Through careful planning and saving money for capital improvements, we were able to have a much needed pole building constructed for storage of Township equipment. The building is located next to the existing garage. The total cost for the 58' x 30' building was \$29,400.00.

WELCOME – to Roseann Garman who worked in the Township office several years ago, and has come back to fill the vacancy left in the Treasurer / Clerks position. We are glad to have her back!

Pine Forge History Day,

May 2, 2010, was an outstanding educational opportunity for those who enjoy local history. Visitors were invited to tour the Rutter Mansion and associated buildings. Guides offered information about the planned restoration and future use of the buildings by Pine Forge Historical Society, in cooperation with the Pine Forge Academy. The importance of maintaining the history accurately was emphasized by Gene Delaplane, a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission member. Accuracy was emphasized again by historical researcher, Shannon Lefebore, in her presentation covering the Rutter and Potts families' genealogy.



Commander Lieutenant Anderson

Guest speaker Commander Lieutenant Anderson, US Navy Chaplain and Pine

Forge Academy Alumnus gave an inspiring speech. His words were especially meaningful to the graduating students of the academy, whose motto, "Excellence is no Accident," was used as a springboard to encourage us to adhere to certain truths and principles. Caring for other people and realizing that God is here to help us, often through other people, he encouraged the students to make "investments" in the wise choice of friends, to network, as networks are multipliers, and to dream, creating goals and plans from these dreams. He also urged students to continue to read, as "readers are leaders... and leaders are readers." "Words," he said, "will stimulate your dreams" and help you lead a life that builds toward a legacy.

Darius Puff, Native American storyteller, costumed in elk, deerskin, linen, beads and head dress, both amused and enlightened with his Delaware and other tribal adventures. The uses of artifacts such as "wampum" and "tomahawks," and the treaties with William Penn were among his humorous tales.

Pine Forge seniors presented a moving play re-enacting scenes from colonial days which depicted the work, the fate, and the feelings of individuals held in slavery, and the importance their church and religion played for them. This was followed by musical selections.



Darius Puff

Janelle Schaffer presented a lesson on Herbs and "Thomas Rutter" spoke on his time of life in the area. The entire program provided one with a chance to spend a leisurely day gaining perspective on our township's historical importance.

The Pine Forge Historical Society greatly appreciates donations toward restoration. New roofs have been applied to two of the buildings, but more challenges lie ahead. Donations are tax deductible.



Don't forget to check the Township website recycling section for

the 2010 Berks County Recycling Schedule.

Police Department News

A Word from the Chief....

Hello everyone, Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Just a few topics to bring up this time. 1. Addresses - We need to see your address quickly in an emergency. I suggest contacting the Amity Fire Company to purchase an address sign that is metal and reflective, or purchase a similar address sign at the local hardware store. We want to be able to help you quickly in an emergency and having your address clearly posted will help in that effort.

2. Notice our newest officer? Kevin Mickle is our newest officer, and he comes to us as a brand-new police officer. Kevin graduated from Alvernia, and the Reading Police Academy, and is young and energetic. Kevin will be riding with another officer for awhile until he gets the lay of the land, and is looking forward to serving the residents of Douglass Township. Kevin had been a ride along as part of his requirement while at Alvernia, and grew to like this area enough to want to work here. We welcome Kevin and for the next newsletter, he will provide an autobiography for everyone.

Any problems or questions, feel free to contact us. We are here to help when you are in need.



Chief Franke and Officer Kevin Mickle

Keep your eyes open for a new notification system which is coming our way soon. This will allow for messages and alerts when something of emergency nature or of importance arises where notification is necessary, i.e. flood, storm, tornado etc... Our website will have information when it is available. You WILL have to sign up for the service.

Geographical Information System being considered for Douglass Township

Geographical information systems (GIS) merge mapping of geographic locations with database technology. They are used to collect, organize, manage, and allow easy access to data that is related to property ownership (tax maps), land surveying, zoning, emergency services, building and zoning permits, as well as data on topography, geology, agricultural uses, wells, septic systems, public sewers, storm water facilities, roads, streams, flood plains, soils, watersheds, public sewers, and municipal resources. An example of a commonly used GIS based application is the global positioning systems (GPS) that many people have in their vehicles. Being able to access and view data visually, so that it is quickly understood and easily shared, would enable informed and efficient decision making for Township officials and staff. The old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" illustrates what GIS would provide.

An important example of how the Township would use GIS is in updating zoning by identifying parcel soil types and proximity to sewer infrastructure, since these factors influence development density. This is vital data for long range planning to decide locations where development is most appropriate while simultaneously identifying which farmland is best for continued agricultural use within the township. GIS would provide the ability to map existing and proposed zoning boundaries, and used in helping establish how they might be changed.

GIS uses commercial software that run on computers like those already owned and in use at Township administrative offices. Phase 1 would focus on training for Township staff and importing readily available data. This would immediately provide the Township with an extremely useful tool for making planning related decisions in areas such as land use, infrastructure improvements, and zoning related issues. The database would continue being built to include municipal operations such as emergency services, building and zoning permits, road improvements, rental properties, and more. The system envisioned for the Township would expand over time as needs evolve and resources permit.

The Township is currently reviewing the broad range benefits of having this kind of system. GIS is already used by most municipalities with higher populations than Douglass, so it is a matter of determining whether GIS system startup and maintenance costs would be better justified now or later. The Township has a lot of older and newer data stored in a variety of formats and in multiple locations. Accessing and relating this information manually is an increasingly outdated method because it can be time consuming for Township staff and therefore costly. Use of geographical information systems is a way to verify that all relevant data will be identified and considered when making decisions that will affect the Township for many years to come. Included in the cost are software, developing databases from township records and other government sources, and training staff to create the detailed reports that can be built with GIS.

For more detailed information on geographical information systems, go to www.gis.com

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

106 Douglass Drive

Boyertown, PA 19512

Office 610-367-8500

Fax 610-367-0360

Office Hours Monday – Friday

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Police 610-367-9474

www.co.berks.pa.us/douglass

Elected and Appointed Officials

Township Supervisors

Chairman Douglass Rhoads; Vice Chairman Rosemarie Bauman; Supervisor Grant Yergey

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

John J. Groff, Roadmaster; Charles Miller; Terry Seyler

Police Department

Chief David K. Franke; Sergeant John W. Dzurek; Patrolman Nicole L. Marth; Part Time Patrolmen Robert N. Wood Jr. and Kevin Mickle. Police Secretary Judith Turner

Elected Auditors

Victor Mease; Cheryl Baro; Shirley Birmingham

Planning Commission

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

Zoning Hearing Board

Joseph Cioa, Chairman; Eugene Rinehimer, Vice Chairman; Dr. David Szymanski; Alan Golden; David Babb, Solicitor Jeffrey Howell, Esq.

Park & Recreation Board

Richard Zuber, Chairman; Pete Dannecker, Vice Chairman; Lesa Surman, Secretary; Lawrence Martin; Michael Yarnall

Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee

Robert Shaner; Donald Grim; David Howerter; Warren Lloyd; Douglass Rhoads

2010 Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors - 7 PM - Jan. 4, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, Jun. 14, Jul. 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

Planning Commission - 7 PM - Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 17, Jun. 15, Jul.

Park and Recreation Committee 7:30 PM

Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, Jun. 7, Jul. 6, Aug. 2, Sept. 7, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6.

Agricultural Security Area Committee - 6 PM Sept. 13