

Rockland Township
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41 Deysher Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522
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ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday
 9:00AM—4:00PM

(NOTE: The Township Office will be closed between 12:00 Noon—1:00PM for lunch. In addition, there will be times when the office will be closed due to illness, vacation, etc.)

ALL OTHER TIMES BY
 APPOINTMENT ONLY.

***THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM JUNE 30, 2016 THRU JULY 6, 2016 FOR VACATION.**

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE:

Rockland Township's website has been available to the public since June 2012. Visitors to the Township's website will find lots of useful and up-to-date information, including access to permit application forms, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, ordinances, etc. RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT!
www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Rockland

Website: www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Rockland

June 2016 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN:

Several months ago, the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors adopted a vision statement, "Rockland Township, a rural pro-agricultural community". This was done after our township had to rewrite our joint comprehensive plan with District Township and the Borough of Topton.

If we look closely at what the Environmental Protection Agency and the PA Department of Environmental Protection says about our soils, steep slopes, etc., the Board felt that giving our municipality a clear direction of future growth would be in our community's best interest. That's not to say commercial and light industrial activities are not welcome, but must remain an atmosphere that compliments a rural quality of life. Right now Rockland Township must review our current ordinances to assure they compliment both the county comprehensive plan and the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan.

The Rockland Township Planning Commission will, in the immediate future, begin reviewing and proposing updates to the Township Zoning Ordinance, which will serve the community well into the future. Prior to the adoption of any changes to the Zoning Ordinance, a public hearing will be advertised and held, and all Township citizens are encouraged to attend. Further, periodic drafts of the Zoning Ordinance updates will be posted on the Township website. Any comments or suggestions will be welcomed. Also, anyone who wishes to point out any inaccuracies or suggested changes to the Zoning Ordinance is welcome to submit them at any time for consideration during this planning process.

Duane Bennetch, Vice Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWNSHIP ROADMASTER:

All public roads are located within land which is referred to as the road right-of-way. The land within the road right-of-way is reserved for the use of the traveling public and maintenance of the road system in the Township. Regulation and control of activities and work in the road right-of-way is necessary to provide efficient and safe operations of all public roads in the Township. Township road right-of-ways are regulated by Township officials; State road right-of-way areas are regulated by PennDOT.

Please do not place any stones, signs, fences, retaining walls, landscaping rocks, berms, filling of roadside ditches, trees, shrubs, bushes, lighting, structures, septic tanks, drain fields, wells, or any other items in the road right-of-way area that may affect traffic and/or sight distance, alter drainage, or create an obstacle for the Township road crew. Road right-of-way distances vary. Therefore, before proceeding with any activity in or near a Township or State roadway, please contact the Township Roadmaster (for Township roads) or PennDOT (for State roads) to verify the right-of-way width for a specific road and to confirm whether a permit is required.

Keep in mind, the following activities in or near the road right-of-way typically require a permit and/or approval in advance:

- New driveway installations or modifications to existing driveways. (Driveway permits are required for the construction of a new driveway, to reconstruct, improve, pave or blacktop an existing driveway and to construct and/or pave a drainage area or other means of ingress or egress to property which connects to a Township or State road.)
- Adding stormwater to or improving a roadside drainage system (including the modification or diverting of any drain or ditch).
- Grading or excavation, landscaping, tree planting, tree trimming or tree removal.
- Any construction activity that impacts stormwater runoff into or around the road right-of-way area.

Your cooperation in keeping the road right-of-way clear of all potential hazards is much appreciated.

Michael Pott, Roadmaster

Inside this Issue:

Septic System Maintenance	2
Reflective Address Signs	2
Door-To-Door Solicitation	2
Ag Security Area Applications Accepted in August	3
Annual Dog Licenses (Berks County)	3
Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine	3
2016 Board Meeting Schedule	3
Emergency Management Info.	3

Sewage-related questions and/or problems should be directed to the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer:

LTL Consultants, Ltd.
One Town Centre Drive
P.O. Box 241
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-9290

ON-LOT SEWAGE PERMIT—
 State and municipal laws require permits for the installation of any new on-site sewage system and corrections/repairs to any existing on-site system. To obtain a permit, please contact LTL Consultants, Ltd., Township Sewage Enforcement Officer.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

One important reason to properly maintain your septic system is to **save money!** Malfunctioning septic systems are often expensive to repair or replace. In addition, a malfunctioning system can contaminate groundwater that might be a source of drinking water. Also, if/when you sell your home, your septic system must be in good working order. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's On-Lot System Operation and Maintenance Homeowner's Guide offers the following tips to homeowners to help prevent malfunctions:

- **Pump septic tank at least every 3-5 years,** depending on the tank size and household size.
- **Inspect the septic tank, pipes and drainage field annually.**
- **Conserve water and reduce wasteflow into the septic tank.**
- **Avoid putting chemicals into the septic system.**
- **Do not use toilets to dispose of bulky, slowly decomposing wastes.**
- **Maintain accurate records of the septic system** (design, installation, location, inspections, pumpings, malfunctions, repairs).
- **Prevent runoff from downspouts, sump pumps, and paved surfaces from getting into the septic system.**
- **Keep heavy vehicles, equipment and livestock away from the septic system.**
- **Do not plant trees and shrubs over or close to the septic system.**

CRIME ALERT—BERKS COUNTY

A trash pile is not only a shame; it's a crime!

STOP DUMPING ON BERKS!
REWARDS of up to \$5,000.00

**If you witness illegal trash dumping, please contact the Berks County Crime Alert Tip Line at: 1-877-373-9913*

Reflective Address Signs HELP SAVE LIVES!

The Lyons Volunteer Fire Co. Truck Crew is selling reflective 911 address emergency response signs. The cost is \$10.00 per sign. Order forms are available in the Township Building lobby area or by contacting Lyons Fire Company directly at Lyons Fire Company, P.O. Box 5, Lyons Station, PA 19536, Phone: 610-682-7936 (Non-Emergency).

**Order your reflective address marker today...
 it may help save your life or someone you love.**

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION

During the summer months, the Township Office receives an increase in the number of inquiries regarding door-to-door solicitation. Rockland Township regulates door-to-door soliciting via the Township's Solicitation Ordinance. Per the Ordinance, **no person shall engage in any door-to-door soliciting in Rockland Township without first registering with the Township Office and obtaining a Solicitation Permit or License.** Here is some additional information on the regulations:

- Solicitation permits are issued at the Township Office, upon receipt of a complete application, fee and proof of identification.
- Every permit/license is issued on an individual basis; each individual engaging in such activity must have a separate permit. Permits are not transferable.
- The fee for a solicitation permit is \$25.00.
- Solicitation permits are valid for 30 days.
- Solicitors **MUST** have a permit in their immediate possession and show it on demand; solicitors must exhibit such license, upon request, to Township and/or law enforcement officials, citizens or residents.
- No person shall sell any product or type of product not mentioned in the approved license.
- Door-to-door solicitation before 9:00AM or after 5:00PM on weekdays is prohibited.
- Solicitation on a Sunday or legal holiday is prohibited.

Residents are encouraged to ask anyone engaging in door-to-door soliciting to present evidence of a Solicitation Permit issued by the appropriate Township official. If you feel that the person who has come to your door is trying to sell or solicit anything under false pretenses or you suspect any kind of suspicious activity, always report this activity promptly to Township or law-enforcement officials. Obviously, if the solicitor threatens or intimidates you or refuses to leave, please dial 911 for immediate service.

AG SECURITY AREA APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN AUGUST

The Rockland Township Board of Supervisors has designated the month of August as the annual period of time when applications shall be accepted to request the addition of land to the existing Rockland Township Agricultural Area Security District. During the month August 2016, applications for inclusion in Rockland Township's Agricultural Security District will be accepted at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. If interested, ag security area applications can be obtained by contacting the Township Office.

ANNUAL DOG LICENSES

As of June 13, 2014, Rockland Township is no longer an authorized dog license issuing agent the County. Therefore, **ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP NO LONGER ISSUES ANNUAL DOG LICENSES.** However, the County requires all dogs three months or older to be licensed. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs. Dog licenses can be purchased from the Berks County Treasurer or an issuing agent. For more information contact the BERKS COUNTY TREASURER's office at (610) 478-6640. Dog licenses can also now be purchased online at www.padoglicense.com.

ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP INCLUDED IN SPOTTED LANTERNFLY QUARANTINE!

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that was first discovered in Berks County in September 2014. The insect has the potential to destroy high-value crops, including grapes, tree fruits and hardwood lumber. In an effort to keep it from spreading, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has quarantined areas in Berks, Montgomery, Bucks and Chester Counties, including Rockland Township. The general quarantine restricts movement of any material or object that can spread the pest. This includes firewood or wood products, brush or yard waste, remodeling or construction materials and waste, packing material like boxes, grapevines for decorative purposes or as nursery stock, and ANY outdoor household articles like lawnmowers, grills, tarps and other equipment, trucks or vehicles typically not stored indoors. For more information about the Spotted Lanternfly, including a map of the entire quarantine area, visit www.agriculture.pa.gov and search "lanternfly". There are also links to additional information on the spotted lanternfly provided on the Township's website.

UPCOMING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS:

July 12, 2016

August 9, 2016

September 13, 2016

October 11, 2016

October 28, 2016 (1:00PM) - Budget Meeting

November 15, 2016

December 13, 2016

December 27, 2016 (7:00PM) - Year-End Meeting

The Board of Supervisors meets once a month. All meetings begin at 7:30PM (unless stated otherwise) and are held at the Township Building. All meetings are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend to keep informed about Township business and to share your thoughts with the Board and the general public.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The Rockland Township Emergency Management Coordinator and emergency responders are requesting the assistance of Township residents to help us identify the following residents:

- Disabled residents
- Residents who have an in-home oxygen tank for breathing purposes
- Non-English speaking residents
- Residents who are experienced professionals in the medical field (physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians, etc.) willing to assist Township emergency personnel in disaster preparedness and disaster response

It is important for the Township to have a list of residents who may require special assistance or who may serve as a valuable resource in the event of a severe emergency. Please contact the Township Secretary at (610) 682-6311 or via email at rocktwp1@ptd.net to provide information to the Township.

ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP

41 Deysher Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Phone: 610-682-6311

Website: www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Rockland

Email: rocktwp1@ptd.net

Elected and Appointed Township Officials

Board of Supervisors:

Herb Meadway—Chairman
Duane Bennetch—Vice Chairman
Nathan Ohlinger

Township Secretary/Treasurer:

Karen Krall

Township Roadmaster:

Michael Pott

Planning Commission Members:

Richard Mazich—Chairman
Herb Meadway—Vice Chairman
William McFadden
Nathan Roush
Nancy Ogden

Elected Auditors:

Elizabeth Coffin —Chairman
Jerry Keller—Secretary
Walter Hafer

Zoning Hearing Board:

William Schellenberger—Chairman
Robert Sodaitis
Brian Barrell

Tax Collector:

Mollie Prey
(610) 987-6019

Township Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer:

Michael Schwenk, Schwenks Code Enforcement, LLC
69 Gernants Church Road
Leesport, PA 19533
(570) 573-9975

Township Building Inspector(s):

Michael Schwenk, Schwenks Code Enforcement, LLC
(570) 573-9975
LTL Consultants, Ltd.
(610) 987-9290

Township Sewage Enforcement Officer:

LTL Consultants, Ltd.
One Town Centre Drive, P.O. Box 241
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-9290

Emergency Management Coordinator:

Alton Zentner

Township Solicitor:

Alfred W. Crump, Jr., Esquire

Township Engineer:

Linda Cluck, LTL Consultants, Ltd.
One Town Centre Drive, P.O. Box 241
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-9290