

# Douglass Township

Berks County  
1068 Douglass Drive  
Boyertown, PA 19512

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## This is Your Douglass Township Newsletter

### News Bits

#### OFFICE CHANGES

**Judy Turner** is now the part time police secretary.

**Kaleena Agliano**, who was hired for a temporary position with the Township, has completed her work with us. Thanks to Kaleena for her assistance in helping us implement new township administrative programs.

The newest face in the office is **Brenda Sturdevant**, as the Township Treasurer/Clerk. Douglass Township will benefit greatly from her 18 years of municipal experience.



#### TENANT REGISTRATION

Ordinance 1983-1, known as the **Landlord Tenant Reporting Ordinance** requires that all landlords

notify the Township of all tenants living at their properties on an annual basis. It also requires the notification to the Township of any changes that take place during the year regarding their tenants. Forms are provided by the Township and can be found on our web site [www.co.berks.pa.us/Douglass](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Douglass)

#### ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Township resident **Joanne Psota** heads a clean up effort several times a year to pick up debris along a stretch of Farmington Avenue. The effort, which takes only an hour or two on a Saturday morning, can be a satisfying way of contributing towards keeping Douglass Township beautiful. If you are interested in volunteering there, contact Joanne at 610-367-0222.

To learn more about the **Adopt A Highway** program to help keep roads in your area of the Township clean, call Township Manager, Toni Hemerka, for information.

#### THANKS TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENT MICHAEL KELLY.

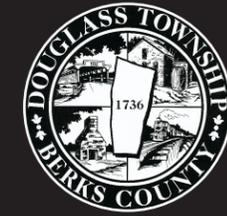
Mike is a 2008 St. Pius X graduate and lifelong resident of Douglass Township. He has achieved Eagle Scout rank by leading a landscaping effort to enhance the overall appearance of the Township building. With the assistance of family and more than a dozen Boy Scouts from St. Columbkil Troop 545, all of the landscaping was replaced in the front of the building, and a planting area was created around the Township sign as well as the flag pole.

Thanks Mike, for a job well done and for serving your community.

STANDARD  
POSTAGE  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID PERMIT  
NO. 10029

BOYERTOWN, PA  
19512



"The First Douglass"

# Douglass Township

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

DECEMBER 2008

1068 Douglass Drive  
Boyertown, PA 19512

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

POLICE 610-367-9474

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

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

## Winter in the Township

### PLOWING

In Douglass Township there are a total of 48 miles of roads. 23 are Township owned and 25 are state owned. Our Township road crew is responsible for plowing all 48 miles.

We have a contract with Penndot in which the Township is paid to plow the 25 miles of state roads, and the Township is responsible for the remaining 23 miles.

We have a very dedicated road crew who make it their priority to plow as quickly as possible in order to keep our streets safe for driving.

After a snowfall, snow should be piled on the side of the road, and should not be thrown onto the road where it will impede clearing operations or traffic movement.

When clearing your driveway, keep in mind that snow is plowed to the right side of the road, toward your driveway. If you shovel before the plow comes you will need to do so again after it comes through.

### POTHOLES

Pothole repair on state roads is the responsibility of Penndot. They have a toll free roadway maintenance hotline 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623).

If you have pothole (or other repair concerns) on any of the following state owned roads, you should contact Penndot directly:

- > Route 422 Bypass
- > Ben Franklin Highway
- > Manatawny Road
- > Pine Forge Road
- > Farmington Avenue
- > Greshville Road
- > Township Line Road
- > West Pine Forge Road
- > Colebrookdale Road

## Heating Assistance

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

As families face tougher economic times and increased cost to heat their homes, some of us may need financial help to get through the winter season. No family should be left out in the cold this winter due to being unable to afford utility bills.

This year \$280 million is available to Pennsylvanians through the federally-funded LIHEAP Program. This assistance is made available through a grant to help residents pay for heating bills, and it is money that does not need to be paid back. There are income requirements that must be met, such as a family of four must prove that they earn \$44,443 or less.

For more information, and to see if you qualify, call the Berks County Assistance office at 610-736-4228.

## Douglass Township is now recycling paper

**At the Township building you will see three new Paper Retriever bins.** These bins were provided to the Township at no cost. Each bin holds 1-2 tons of paper. Each time the bins are emptied, the Township will receive \$5 per ton for the paper.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**1 ton of paper recycling saves:**

- > 17 Trees
- > 3 cubic yards of landfill space
- > 4102 kwh of electricity
- > 60 pounds of air pollution
- > 7000 gallons of water

The purpose is to provide Township residents an easy way to be environmentally responsible by reducing the amount of paper in landfills.

This is a satisfying community project where we can all make a difference.

Berks County Solid Waste Authority is committed to manage solid waste and recyclable materials in an environmentally safe, reliable and efficient manner.

Check out their web site for more information: <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa>

- ⇒ **Catalogs**
- ⇒ **Construction Paper**
- ⇒ **Folders**
- ⇒ **Junk Mail**
- ⇒ **Magazines**
- ⇒ **Newspapers**
- ⇒ **Notebooks**
- ⇒ **Office Paper**
- ⇒ **Poster Paper**
- ⇒ **Shredded Paper**
- ⇒ **TV Guides**

# Police Dept. News

## NEW POLICE OFFICER

Welcome to our new full time police officer, **Ted Daniels**. Ted comes to Douglass Township as an experienced police officer and is a strong addition to the department.

Our Police Department now has 3 full time, and 2 part time officers, therefore our coverage has increased accordingly, however we are still a part time department. There are times when officers are on duty but out of the office on police business. If that is the case, then any calls to the police department are directed to the Berks County Communications Center. You can leave a message there to report your non-emergency concern, and the information will be passed on to one of our Douglass Township officers.

In the case of an emergency, call

911, and if none of our officers are on duty the call will be transferred to the State Police.

## NEW POLICE CAR

The Township is on a rotating replacement plan for all vehicles and equipment. This year the Crown Victoria was retired and replaced with a 2008 Chevy Tahoe. We will continue to put money aside each year to keep all Township vehicles in top running order.

## SPEEDING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

Douglass Township PD participates in the state's **Smooth Operator** program. This program is targeted



Officer Ted Daniels and our new township police vehicle.

towards reducing speeding on Township roads. The state supports these efforts by reimbursing the Township for \$8,000 per year of overtime used toward speed enforcement.

There is also the **Click it or Ticket** state program where the Township is reimbursed for overtime accrued by checking vehicles to make sure all are wearing their seat belts.

## BERKS WOMEN IN CRISIS Domestic Violence Hotline (610) 372-9540

All services are free and confidential

*"The mission of Berks Women in Crisis is to provide supportive services for victims and eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Berks County."*

They are committed to the understanding and prevention of personal and institutional violence against individuals. Their goal is it to improve the quality and the safety of victims' lives by providing services, advocating for peace, and ultimately eliminating violence in society.

Their web site <http://www.berkswomenincrisis.org/> has a service to help you clear their pages that you have viewed on their web site so no one can see what pages you have visited.

hotline calls, 439 rapid response calls, 118 medical advocacy calls, 681 legal representations, 6997 persons in counseling, and 17,993 Peace Works educational initiatives for children.

Berks Women in Crisis has gone to many lengths to try to help people who are victims, however, you need to take the first step. If you have questions, feel free to call them and ask if you meet the criteria. BWIC Penn Street, Reading, PA. 19601, 610 373-1206, or hotline 610-372-9540. In the event of sexual assault, call 610-373-2053. If an incident happens in Douglass Township call us as well, and we will direct you. In an emergency use 911. If you feel as though you're in danger, get help. Nobody should be a hostage...we can help set you free, but first, you need to ask for help.

## From the desk of Dave Franke Douglass Township Chief of Police

There are unfortunately many people who live with various forms of abuse... they are hostages to the pain of physical violence. Domestic violence and child abuse leave victims not only in Berks County but nationwide. Both have remedies, which too often arrive too late.

There is help. The decision to leave an abuser is rarely an easy one but you don't have to make it alone. One of the local agencies that assists in time of these crises is Berks Women in Crisis. They offer counseling, legal advice, representation, and safety shelters.

Last year Berks Women in Crisis provided 8,334 shelter nights, 1,751

# Proposed 2009 Operating Budget

## There will be no increase in taxes for Douglass Township in 2009.

The total income in the General Fund includes projected proceeds from the sale of one of 3 deed-restricted lots to be created from the 899 Douglass Drive parcel, via the Township Agricultural Preservation program. The balance forward reflects a cash payment of \$2.7M to be received by the township, resulting from a litigation settlement with the quarry, Reading Materials, Inc., stemming from a zoning dispute. The planned capital improvements for the year includes the replacement of a truck and snow plow; new garage doors; a roof for the equipment garage; resurfacing of the parking lot at the Township building; and the trade in of the Expedition police car. The net projected surplus of \$3,753,690 remains as an interest accruing investment.

## There will be no increase in the sewer rate in 2009.

There are currently 150 households connected to the sanitary sewer system. Each household currently pays \$120 per quarter for the service. The cost of maintenance and operation is completely covered by sewer rates, and there are no tax dollars involved in the sewer fund.

## The Liquid Fuels Fund is aid we receive from the state that must be used for road maintenance and repairs.

In order to ensure that all Township roads remain in the best possible condition, a major project is planned each year, if possible. The 2009 project remains undetermined at this time.

**Douglass Township is in sound fiscal condition.** If you have any questions whatsoever regarding the operating budget, please feel free to contact the Township Manager, Toni Hemerka at 610-367-8500.

## GENERAL FUND

INCOME	
Taxes	\$ 751,600.00
Licenses & Permits	\$ 26,750.00
Fines	17,000.00
Interest	\$ 73,000.00
Land Rental	\$ 9,700.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 52,900.00
Charges for Service	\$ 91,539.00
Sale of Assets	\$ 300,000.00
Interfund Operating Transfers	\$ 15,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,397,289.00</b>
EXPENSES	
General Government	\$ 353,892.00
Police	\$ 354,659.91
Public Safety	\$ 122,357.00
Health & Human Services	\$ 2,350.00
Public Works - Sanitation	\$ 15,000.00
Roads and Streets	\$ 205,101.80
Recreation	\$ 46,300.00
Insurances	\$ 28,938.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,128,598.71</b>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 268,690.30
Total Fund Balances Forwarded	\$ 3,600,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$ -115,000.00
Net Surplus	\$ 3,753,690.30

## SEWER FUND

INCOME	
Interest	\$ 6,000.00
Permits/Connection Fees/User Fees	\$ 121,000.00
Finance Charges/Certification Fees	\$ 1,750.00
Transfers	\$ -
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 128,750.00</b>
EXPENSES	
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,300.00
Sewage Treatment	\$ 40,000.00
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 24,000.00
Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 36,100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 109,400.00</b>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 19,350.00
Total Fund Balances Forwarded	\$ 385,000.00
Net Surplus	\$ 404,350.00

## LIQUID FUELS FUND

INCOME	\$ 131,583.27
EXPENSES	\$ 35,000.00
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 96,583.27
Total Fund Balances Forwarded	\$ 70,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$ -160,000.00
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 6,583.27

## MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

- > **SUPERVISORS**  
FIRST TUESDAY AT 7 PM
- > **PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
FIRST MONDAY AT 7:30 PM
- > **PLANNING COMMISSION**  
THIRD TUESDAY AT 7 PM

## ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- SUPERVISORS**  
Chairman Dorothy R. Pulcher  
Vice Chairman Rosemarie Bauman  
Supervisor Douglass Rhoads
- 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 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  
Charlene Conrad, Pete Danneker,  
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, etc.

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)