

Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

Autumn 2011 • Volume 7, Issue 3

Township Office 610-367-8500 Fax 610-367-0360 Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
www.co.berks.pa.us/douglass email: dougberks@comcast.net



2nd Annual Douglass Township Community Day Saturday October 1, 2011; 9 AM - 2 PM

Mark your calendar to join your neighbors at the 2nd Annual community day.

5K run, 2 mile walk, food, live music, games, local businesses, churches and fire companies, moon bounce, pumpkin decorating, community yard sale and a food drive for the Boyertown Multi Service, plus much more....

We are in need of volunteers to assist in the festivities. If you can work just a few hours, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact the office at 610-367-8500 or email dougberks@comcast.net

Registration forms for the race and walk can be found on the Township website at www.co.berks.pa.us/douglass and are available at the Township Office.

Douglass Township Park & Recreation Committee Annual

Easter Egg Hunt

The Egg Hunt was held on April 16th at the Douglass Township Municipal Park. The event was a great success with 60 children participating. Each child received about 15 plastic eggs filled with candy. There was an egg scramble for 5 age groups from toddlers to 6th graders. With 25 prize eggs, some children took home an Easter Basket filled with goodies.



Ironstone Creek

The stream bank along the Ironstone Creek on Grist Mill road has been eroding for some time and at this point was threatening the stability of the road if the eroding wasn't stopped. After working with the Department of Environmental Protection, Berks County Conservation District, PA Fish and Boat Commission and property owners, the work was awarded to the lowest bidder the Betta Co., LLC from Blue Bell PA. The cost of the project was \$43,322.50 which included the hauling and strategically placing of approximately 1500 tons of large native boulders along 495 feet of the edge of the stream ban. Not only does it look natural and provide a natural habitat for water life, but it will also stabilize and prevent the undermining of Grist Mill Road.

Ironstone Park

The road crew expanded the parking area at the park. The gates are kept locked when the grounds are wet. This way even with the gates locked, there is parking for an additional 20 cars.

South Sunrise Lane

Work is ready to begin on the replacement of two culverts on South Sunrise Lane. The work is estimated to begin around June 21st, with the road being closed for two weeks.

2011 Road Work

The plans for this year are to mill and overlay Apple Street and to do miscellaneous base repair on Douglass Drive.

B E R K S C O U N T Y

Election Services Help is needed to work at the Polls on Election Day in Douglass Township. There are two openings for election officers in the Township at both poles at Mountain View Chapel and the Township Building for the November 8, 2011 election. Positions available are:

Clerk: Keeps the list of voters and helps to process absentees and write-ins.
Machine Operator: Sets the machine for each voter. Helps to close machines and process absentees and write-ins. Both positions pay \$100 for the day. Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in Berks County.

CONTACT:

Election Services,
Berks County Services Center
633 Court Street, 1st Floor
Reading, PA 19601
Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 5 pm 610-478-6490



P O L I C E D E P A R T M E N T



From Chief Franke

As we approach the summer, many will vacation and be outdoors. I would remind residents to secure their front doors if you will be out of the sight of the front door. Please be cautious when selecting a contractor to do work in and around your home. Know your contractor, hire someone you know, or who has done good work for a friend.

CHECK YOUR CREDIT. Has someone else been using your good name to make purchases you are not aware of? They start with small purchases to see if the card still works, then... WHAM!!! Keep an eye on your bills, are the costs all yours? Notify police and cancel your cards immediately if you think your identity or credit has been compromised! You can't afford not too!

Call police if you will be away. An extra eye can't hurt! Go to the web site, or ask an officer for a vacation request form. Ask an officer for suggestions on how to come home to a secure home.

Federal Assistance for home repairs for qualified homeowners. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Rural Development is a Federal Agency that administers loan and grant programs to assist individuals and communities. One of the available programs is the Section 504 Home Repair Loan Program. This is a valuable program which assists very low income home owners who may not qualify for other conventional financing. It is a 1% loan and may be amortized for up to 20 years. USDA, Rural Development Agency, 2211 Mack Boulevard, Allentown, PA 18103 or call 610-791-9810. www.eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do

S U P E R V I S O R S C O R N E R

The Zoning Ordinance update is making progress during the Planning Commission monthly meetings. The first draft of the proposed updates to the Supplemental Regulations are almost complete after which the Zoning District review is expected to begin. Transferable Development Rights (TDR) will be considered as a means of preserving agricultural lands while allowing landowners to be fairly compensated for their open space designations. If TDR is used in residential zoning, farmland preservation ("sending" zones) would be exchanged for the possibility of higher density developments in other residential areas ("receiving" zones) that might be more capable of accommodating public water and sewer. Overall residential density in the township might increase but the residential development would be "clustered" rather than "sprawled". Much work remains in deciding whether the TDR zoning tool can be used in our township but it does offer the opportunity to permanently preserve our rural character while allowing for a normal course of land development. TDR has been used successfully in several rural Pennsylvania townships and it could be a "win-win" solution for all Douglass Township residents.

NEWS BITS

Open Subdivisions:

Yorgey Subdivision Valley Brook Road, 3 residential lots

Brookwood Estates Subdivision, Colebrookdale Road and Goose Run Road, 21 residential lots

2011 Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors - 7 PM - June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12

Planning Commission - 7 PM - June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20

Park and Recreation Committee - 7:30 PM - June 6, July 5, August 1, September 6, October 3, November 7, December 5

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
Patrolmen Kevin D. Mickle

Elected Auditors

Victor Mease; Cheryl Baro; Shirley Birmingham

Planning Commission

Gary Twardowski, Chairman
Kenneth Kirch, Vice Chairman
Richard Stoudt; Grant Yergey and Patricia Follweiler

Zoning Hearing Board

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

Park & Recreation Board

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

Agricultural Security Committee

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

GLENDALE POOL CLOSES

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 served the community. Thanks in large part to the efforts and contributions of a few longtime residents and GSA board members, the pool was operated and maintained throughout the 80's and '90's. In 2007, a small group of volunteers took up the task of running the Glendale Pool. They had a challenging few years, and in 2011 came to the painful decision that the pool was no longer financially self sustaining.

It is unfortunate that in these tough economic times, we feel the loss of such long time institutions.

Food Drive The Township will be hosting a food drive for the Boyertown Area Multi Service food pantry for the month of September, ending on Community Day on October 1st. Check the website and the next newsletter for details on the items needed.

Volunteers Needed We are in need of volunteers to help with Community Day. The event will be held on Saturday October 1, 2011. From 9am - 2pm. If you are interested, please call or email the Township Office. You don't need to volunteer for the entire day, just pick a time slot.

Thank You to Latasha Hewitt and the students at the Jesse R. Wagner Elementary School for filling 900 plastic eggs with candy for the egg hunt.

Thank You to Warren Lloyd for eight years of service to the Township on the Planning Commission

Thank You to the residents of Douglass Village who fold, seal and sort 1500 newsletters each quarter for the Township. We can't thank you all enough for your help.

Thank You to June Kelly. June 's son Mike earned his Eagle Scout in 2008 by completing a landscaping project at the Township building. Each year June comes back to plant flowers adding color to the flower beds. Thanks June!

Welcome to Patricia Follweiler who was appointed to a four year term on the Planning Commission. Patricia is a long time resident of the Township and brings extensive experience in land development. Welcome Pat!

Douglass Township

Berks County
1068 Douglass Drive
Boyertown, PA 19512

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DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

Harvest Fellowship Church of Colebrookdale will be holding a spring time community-wide yard sale on June 25, 2011 rain or shine from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Tables will be provided at no charge. All are welcome to come and sell your treasures, or to purchase more. To register: email harvest.fellowship@yahoo.com or call the church office at 610-367-2853 Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 4:00pm. There is ample space for tables and parking.

HARVEST FELLOWSHIP - Outdoor Concert August 6th, Saturday. "Beyond the Veil" will provide the music that will last approximately 1.5 hours.

Emergency Services Fire Companies that serve Douglass Township are: Amity Fire Co., Boyertown Hook and Ladder, West End Fire Co. and Boyertown Friendship Fire Co.

Ambulances that service our Township: Boyertown Lions Community Ambulance : www.boyertownems.org and Goodwill Ambulance of Pottstown.

Annual Closing of Pine Forge Road Allegheny East Conference will be holding their annual church retreat from June 30 – July 10, 2011. Pine Forge Road will be closed from Douglass Drive to Glendale Drive for that period of time.



RECYCLING Working together to create a healthier environment.....

Douglass Township has a Paper Retriever Bin at the Township Building for all your newspapers, catalogs, office and home paper, envelopes, paperback books, brochures, receipts, etc... They do NOT accept: cardboard, phonebooks, cereal boxes, plastic, aluminum and trash.

In 2010 we recycled 11.44 tons of paper. That saved 34.32 cubic yards of landfill. We would like to surpass last years numbers, so keep recycling! For recycling of all other materials as well as donations, bartering and selling unused items, please see check out the Township website at co.berks.pa.us/douglass..

Don't forget to check the Township website recycling section for the 2011 Berks County recycling schedule for all type of recyclable materials.