

Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

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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

The 2nd Annual Community Day held on Saturday October 1st was a great success!

Activities of the day included: 5K run * 2 mile walk * Community Yard Sale * Crafts * Refreshments * Games
Hayrides * Moon Bounce * Face Painting * Pumpkin Decorating * Pony Rides
Live Music by “Boothill” * Local Fire Companies Displays * Antique Fire Trucks
Food Drive for the Boyertown Multi Service * Local Businesses and Churches



Our thanks to the many volunteers, vendors, fire companies and scouts for your hard work.
A special thanks to Allegheny East Conference for the use of their tent, tables and moon bounce.

Mark your calendar for the first Saturday in October each year!

H I S T O R Y C O R N E R

The Footbridge Across the Manatawny By Betty Burdan

If you've ever come down Creek Road from Rattlesnake Hill, as you drive along the Manatawny Creek, you probably noticed a footbridge spanning the Manatawny. If you are like me, you wondered how long the footbridge was there and who built it. It has survived the severest of hurricanes, Hazel in the 1950s and Agnes in the 1970s, and who knows how many high waters, winds and storms have pounded its sides and underpinnings. Still it stands strong.

There is probably no one alive who saw the foot bridge built, as it was built in late summer 1912. It was at a Supervisors meeting in mid July of 1912, that the contract to build the bridge was awarded to a Philadelphia party. It was to be six feet wide, 100 feet long and located opposite the Hotel Douglass. Concrete piers were constructed in early August and the iron bridge, which was constructed in Philadelphia, was ready to ship to the sight. The installation and completion date are unknown, but it is safe to say that the foot bridge will celebrate its 100th birthday in late summer of 2012.

Whether the bridge, has a name, other than the footbridge across the Manatawny is unknown to me. If it is as it was when it was first built, which it appears to be, or if there were any repairs done to it over these 99 1/2 years is also unknown. But, it is safe to say it has served Pine Forge and Douglass very well and many a foot has passed over the footbridge across the Manatawny.

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



From Chief Franke

We want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. With the winter / holiday season upon us, please remember these safety tips:

- If you are going away, don't leave gifts visible through your windows, they become inviting for thieves. Notify the Police so that we can keep an eye on your property. Notify your mail carrier, they can hold your mail till you get home. You can use lighting and radios to your advantage with timers that will keep many guessing.
- Keep your Christmas tree watered to keep the electric lights from igniting the drying pine needles. Don't use your extension cords to a "over-capacity" amount. If your idea is to make a homier atmosphere with the fireplace on Christmas eve, Santa will not fit through all the creosote, so have your chimney cleaned!
- We are all here for your benefit, please help us to help you. Identify your home with numbering so we can find you.
- Please be careful as snow and ice visit our roadways. We certainly don't want our vehicles to visit body shops, and junk yards. If you are running late, please don't try to beat Mother Nature.

We all wish each and every one of you a very special and safe enjoyable seasonable gathering this Holiday Season.

Hunting on Township Properties

Beginning September 1st, the Township once again began issuing hunting licenses for Township residents.

The season for hunting on Township property is September 17 through January 28th. Permits are issued at the Township office during regular business hours.

Land open for hunting will be the 85 acres known as Goose Run Park as well as the approximately 75 acres the Township owns in the area of 900 Douglass Drive. Rifles are prohibited.

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 enough for your help.

Thank You to Lesa Surman for her service to the Township as a Park and Recreation Committee member. Lesa has resigned in order to pursue other interests.

Thank You to Boy Scout Troop #523 for the festive wreath that hangs on the front door of the Township Building.

NEWSBITS

2012 Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors - 7 PM - Jan. 3, Feb. 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10

Planning Commission - 7 PM - Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, & Dec. 18

Park and Recreation Committee - 7:30 PM - Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, Sept. 4, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, & Dec. 3

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; 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
Lawrence Martin; Michael Yarnall

Agricultural Security Committee

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

2012 Operating Budget

The 2012 operating budget for the Township is scheduled to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors at their December 12, 2011 meeting.

Please note: There will be NO increase in the Township Tax which remains at 2 mills.

GENERAL FUND - 2012

Income

Taxes	\$ 818,000.00
Licenses & Permits	\$ 40,150.00
Fines	\$ 20,500.00
Interest	\$ 25,000.00
Land Rental	\$ 2,635.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 66,600.00
Charges for Service	\$ 69,026.00
Inter Fund Transfers	\$ 278,220.00
Refund for Prior Year	\$ 15,000.00
Total Income	\$1,335,131.00

Expenses

General Government	\$ 340,998.00
Police	\$ 427,240.00
Public Safety	\$ 155,363.00
Health & Human Services	\$ 3,750.00
Public Works - Sanitation	\$ 16,585.00
Roads & Streets	\$ 310,880.00
Recreation	\$ 2,475.00
Insurances	\$ 54,600.00
Hydrant Fees	\$ 23,240.00
Total Expenses	\$1,335,131.00
Net Surplus - Deficit	\$ -
Fund Balances Forwarded	\$ 3,100,000.00
Net Surplus	\$ 3,100,000.00

Earned Income and Local Services Tax

The amount of taxes which are paid through your payroll has not changed. However, the way it is collected has.

The Governor of PA enacted Act 32 which requires all municipalities in the State to have one tax collector per County to collect earned income and local services taxes. In the past, Douglass Township residents paid these taxes to the Boyertown School District who then did the disbursement.

All employers are now required to forward these taxes to the:

Berks EIT Bureau
920 Van Reed Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-372-1102
www.berkseit.com

HELP WANTED

There is an opening to be filled on the Park & Recreation Committee. The committee meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 at the Township Building. If you are interested, contact the Township office.

Douglass Township
 Berks County
 1068 Douglass Drive
 Boyertown, PA 19512

STANDARD
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DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

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



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.

Berks County Recycling: For more information, go to www.co.berks.pa.us/swa. Recycling containers are placed monthly at the Boyertown Borough garage. The garage is located off South Reading Avenue, across from the Salvation Army. Drop off days are Wednesday through Sunday on December 28, 2011. 2012 dates are : Jan. 25, Feb., 22, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13, July 11, August 8, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26.

MATERIALS	ITEMS ACCEPTED	ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED	PREPARATION
GLASS	Clear, green, and brown bottles and food jars , such as soda or beer bottles and food containers.	Windows and plate glass, light bulbs, crystal, ceramics, or any type of tempered glass.	Rinse food and beverage containers. Labels can be left on. Do not deposit broken glass.
ALUMINUM CANS	Aluminum food and beverage cans only.	Foil, frozen entree pans, pie tins, aluminum lawn furniture.	Rinse cans. Crush or leave as is. Labels can be left on.
BI-METAL CANS	Any food containers for vegetables, fruit, soup and juice.	Aerosol cans, oil cans, paint cans, and scrap metals.	Rinse cans. Crush or leave as is. Labels can be left on.
PLASTICS: #1 to #7 Bottles and Containers only	Soft-drink bottles, milk containers, water , juice, laundry detergents, bleaches, or fabric softeners.	Toys, chairs, flowerpots. Anything other than a food container.	Remove lids or caps (these are regular trash). Rinse and clean containers.
CORRUGATED CARDBOARD	Clean, dry corrugated cardboard, shipping boxes.	Oily or wet cardboard boxes.	Flatten boxes and cut them in 2-foot sections. Bundle securely with twine.