

Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

Spring 2012 • Volume 8, Issue 1

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

On Site Sewage Systems

The best designed and properly installed on lot sewage disposal system will still malfunction if the homeowner does not properly operate and maintain the system. In addition to requiring costly repairs, malfunctioning systems can contaminate surface and groundwater, causing various health problems, and spread disease.

How a Septic System Functions

Sewage flows to the septic tank, where the treatment process takes place. In the tank, the heaviest matter settles to the bottom and the lighter matter floats on top. The clear liquid flows out of the tank to an absorption area. This liquid flows through the soil for additional treatment. The bacteria in the soil neutralizes many of the contaminants in the wastewater.

Pumping Your Septic Tank A septic tank accumulates solids and unabsorbed liquid which should be pumped out at least every three years. The frequency of pumping depends upon tank size and household size. Larger households generally require more frequent pumping's.

The PA. Department of Environmental Protection urges homeowners to have their system pumped every three years or more often if necessary. They have initiated a new program that will require municipalities to have a program where homeowners will be required to provide the Township with proof of pumping in the form of a pumping slip from the pumper.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 31, 2012
10AM

At the Township Building
See the flyer insert for more details



Community Day

Saturday October 6, 2012

Join your neighbors for a day of community fellowship Saturday October 6, 2012 at the Township Building. The day begins with a 5K run / 2 mile walk at 9:00 AM. For a registration form and course map go to the Township website. If you are not interested in the race/walk, join us at 9:00 to cheer on the participants, or come at 10:00 when the other activities begin. There will be a moon bounce, hayrides, pony rides, food, games, live music and much more. Stay tuned for more details.....

Election Services Help Wanted

Help is needed to work at the Polls on Election Day in Douglass Township. There is currently an opening for the Judge of Elections at the Township Building for the April 24, 2012 Primary election.

The position pays \$105.00 for the day and also pays for training and mileage. 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.

Thank You to the residents of Douglass Village who fold, seal and sort 1500 newsletter each quarter for the Township.

Welcome to our new Park and Recreation members Eileen Gilbert and Sally Stetler.

Pine Forge Athletic Association - 2012 opening day is April 21st at 10 AM.



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

From Chief Franke

Neighbors and friends... we are just about through winter, and we have been spared a harsh winter, and that may help the economic woes of some, however, many others continue to suffer, some as the result of their own mistakes, and the resolve they choose is to prey upon those of society who have more than they do... some out of desperation, others because they just don't care about anyone or anything. The reason I say this is two fold, 1. your valuables, may become someone's next drug fix, and 2. your deciding to encounter the person may lead to a struggle that could find you injured or killed. Our advice is to never confront a person face to face, allow us to do that for you. Dial 911 and let us confront the person, If you can get a license plate without endangering yourself, please do so, if not, a good description of the person and vehicle is a good next best.

If you have items stolen, it is in your best interest to seek them out to identify them in pawn shops and on-line on Craig's List and e-bay, and other on-line auctions that you may know of. DO NOT confront the pawn shops if you do see your items, let police make that contact, but notify us as soon as possible. It may take a thief several weeks to get rid of your items.

Reminders...

- The State enacted a MOVE-OVER LAW which means that you MUST, when the road type permits, move to another lane. If that is not possible, you must slow down, upon approach to an area where activity creates an emergency area. This is NOT limited to Police, Fire and Ambulance activity, but includes Utility workers, Tow Truck operators, Penn DOT, and any other service providers. This is for their safety as well as yours. Fines and license suspensions of proportionate amounts will be assessed to those convicted of this law.
- Lights on when your wipers are on... NO, not your daytime driving lights, they only light up front, your headlights which will also light your tail-lamps as well. This also applies during inclement weather when visibility is lessened.

If you need police assistance, in an emergency call 911, otherwise, dial 610-367-9474.

SABVI PROVIDES SPECIALIZED SERVICES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR VISION IMPAIRED IN BERKS COUNTY www.sabvi.com



Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired (SABVI) provides specialized services to eligible low-income residents who are blind or vision impaired so they can retain their independence. Services in Berks County include: monthly support group meetings, critical transportation services, in-home assistance with vital activities of daily living as well as life skills education. The support group meets at the Reading Library, Northeast Branch, the second Wednesday of the month and is held under the direction of Claire Hinkle, Life Skills Coordinator. To register or arrange services, please call **Claire Hinkle at 610-741-6378.**)

About Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired

SABVI serves more than 2,000 individuals who are blind or vision impaired in Lancaster, Lebanon, Somerset, Berks and Chester counties, as well as the Philadelphia region. The association provides a variety of programs including early childhood education, rehabilitation services, employment training, and industrial/manufacturing services. Its corporate office is at 244 N. Queen St., Lancaster, PA 17603. SABVI also houses the Steinman Eye Clinic, providing diagnostic eye care services at a need-based minimal charge. Susquehanna Foundation for the Blind is the fund raising arm of SABVI.

For more information about Susquehanna Association of the Blind and Vision Impaired, please contact Kim Yakowski, SABVI Marketing Manager kim@sfblind.org or call at 717-393-5894 extension 4118.

NEWS BITS

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



Berks County Recycling and Waste Collection 2012 Free to all Berks County Residents

Household Hazardous Waste

April 21, 2012 at the Exeter Township Municipal Building, DeMoss Road
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Rain or Shine

October 20, 2012 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61, Reading
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Rain or Shine

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- Oil Paints, Turpentine
- Wood Preservatives
- Paint Thinners & Solvents
- Oil Based Paints, Varnishes and Stains

OUTDOORS

- Weed Killers and Pesticides
- Asphalt & Driveway Sealants
- Pool Chemicals, Herbicides

AUTOMOTIVE

- Antifreeze, Gasoline, Transmission Oil
- Motor Oil, Automotive paints

HOUSEHOLD

- Solvents, Disinfectants
- Rug, Oven & Drain Cleaners
- Button, Lithium & NiCad Batteries
- Photographic Chemicals
- Floor & Furniture Polish

DO NOT BRING

- Latex Paint, Caulking Compound
- Organic Peroxides, Gas Cylinders
- Explosives & Ammunition
- Radioactive Waste
- Infectious or Medical Waste
- Water based sealants

Pharmaceutical Collection

April 28, 2012 at the Exeter Township Municipal Building, DeMoss Road
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Rain or Shine

October 13, 2012 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61, Reading

Bring any unwanted and expired medications both prescription and over the counter in tablet, liquid, ointment, inhaler, powder or patch form, in their original containers. Do not remove labels, only cross out your name. All medications will be destroyed by incineration.

Electronic Recycling Center

Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8:00 AM - Noon
1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport (near the Reading Fairgrounds)

All electronics are accepted. Anything that plugs in or runs on batteries.
Fees: Batteries - free of charge
TV's 20" and smaller \$5.00 each
TV's 20" and larger \$10.00 each
All other electronics \$1.00 each

Community Shredding Event

April 28, 2012 at the Exeter Township Municipal Building, DeMoss Road
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Rain or Shine

October 13, 2012 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61, Reading
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Rain or Shine
10 boxes per vehicle maximum

More recycling information on the last page

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

Cheryl Baro; Shirley Birmingham;
Linwood Dunning

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
Lawrence Martin; Michael Yarnall;
Eileen Gilbert; and Sally Stetler as alternate

Agricultural Security Committee

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

Douglass Township

Berks County
1068 Douglass Drive
Boyertown, PA 19512

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

STANDARD
POSTAGE
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID PERMIT
NO. 10029
BOYERTOWN, PA
19512

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

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. 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.

Items Accepted: Glass, Aluminum Cans, Tin Cans, Plastics #1 to #7. FOOD CONTAINERS ONLY.

Douglass Township Emergency Management

We all remember the storms of the past several years. The rain, the blizzards, all of those trying days when you tried to get around, but were unable to because roads were closed. Do you remember reading about drills at Limerick Power Plant, or do you ever hear the sirens go off during testing? Do you ever wonder how that all happens? Would you like to?

Emergency Management looks at pro-active ways to address emergencies and ways to handle the response, handle resources, and plan for those events which we may choose to avoid thinking about, but need to plan for in the event they do occur. It is better to have an idea beforehand than to guess when something happens. We need people who may have a little time, desire to help, and are willing to learn how to help others as members of the Douglass Township Emergency Management Agency. If you have any interest in helping, please contact 610-367-8500 and leave your name and phone number so that we can contact you. No experience is necessary.