

# Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

AUGUST 2014 • Volume 10, Issue 2

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



Douglass Township  
5th Annual Community Day  
Saturday October 4, 2014  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mark your calendar to join in on the fun

9:00 AM - the first event of the day is the 5K Trestle Run / 2 mile walk starting and ending at the Township building. The 5K loops through the beautiful Ironstone Park. Registration forms for the race / walk can be found on the Township website, or at the office. Pre-registration is preferred.

### **Activities Begin at 10 AM**

Games \* Hayrides \* Music \* Moon Bounce

Yard Sales & Crafts \* Food \* Face Painting Pumpkin Decorating

Pony Rides (11-1:00) \* Multi Service Food Drive \* Pumpkin Patch (bring your camera)

Local Businesses, Churches and Fire Companies

To sign up as a yard sale / craft vendor: contact the Township office at 610-367-8500, or [dougberks@comcast.net](mailto:dougberks@comcast.net) to reserve a table. There is no fee.

Volunteers are needed to work the day of the event. If you are interested, please contact the township office.

### **Boyertown Area Multi Service Food Drive**

The food drive will run the entire month of September, ending on Community Day. All items can be brought to the Township building. The following list is of their most current needs. Please consider donating to help others in need.

1. Beverages: Drink Mix, Coffee, Tea, Juice
2. Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo
3. Rice
4. Peanut Butter and Jelly
5. Pancake Mix and Syrup
6. Boxed Potatoes
7. Brownie/Cake Mixes
8. Dish Soap/Laundry Detergent
9. Paper Towels/Napkins/Tissues
10. Shampoo/Deodorant



## P A R K &amp; R E C R E A T I O N

**The 2014 Egg Hunt** was a great success . On a perfect Spring day, there were approximately 70 children who enjoyed scrambling for 1000 plastic candy filled eggs. With special prize eggs and hanging out with the Easter Bunny, a great time was had by all. Many thanks to the students at Jesse Wagner Elementary for filling all the eggs for the event.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Douglass Township has 205 acres of Township owned open space.

**Municipal Park** located at 1068 Douglass Drive. Fifteen acres of ball fields, playground, tennis courts, picnic pavilion.

**Ganshawny Park** located at 343 Old Philadelphia Pike. Six acres with a boat ramp, picnic tables along the Schuylkill River, grills, picnic pavilion.

**Goose Run Park** with two entrances located at 105 Colebrookdale Road and 1220 Levensgood Road. Eighty three acres of wooded walking trail, picnic pavilion.

**Ironstone Park** located at 141 Grist Mill Road. Twenty seven acres with baseball field, playground, two picnic pavilions as well as picnic tables along the beautiful Ironstone Creek, basketball court and public restrooms.

**Douglass Drive** in the 900 block. Seventy four acres of open space used for hiking and hunting.

### Walking Trail

The macadam walking trail at the Municipal Park located behind the Township building is complete. Thanks to a Grant from the PA. Department of Community and Economic Development, the trail now completes a loop of 3/10 of a mile.

### Ironstone Pavilion #2

Due to the high demand for pavilion rental at the Ironstone Park, a 2nd pavilion was constructed this year. Now complete with electric, water, and a grill, the pavilion is available for rentals.

**Thank You** to Kurt Bullock from Boy Scout Troop #523 for building ten picnic tables at the new pavilion. As his project to reach the level of Eagle Scout, Kurt developed and ran the project to construct all the tables.

Thank You Kurt!



## NEWS BITS

### Thank You

Gary Twardowski recently retired from his position on the Township Planning Commission. Gary was appointed in August 1996 and served the Township for almost 28 years! Thank You Gary for your service to the residents of Douglass Township. Best of luck in your retirement.

### Welcome

To Duane Duncan our newest road crew member. Duane joined the Township in April of this year. His past experience has proven to be a great addition to the Township.

2014 General Election - November 4



**Berks County Recycling Collection**  
**Free to Berks County Residents**  
**2014**

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

**Household Hazardous Waste**

October 18 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

**Pharmaceutical Collection and Shredding Event**

October 11 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

**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.

Check out the Berks County website under the Solid Waste Authority at [www.countyofberks.com/swa](http://www.countyofberks.com/swa) for more details on all recycling offered to the residents of Berks County. Information is also available at the Township office.

In the wake of the Boyertown recycling center closure, we lost a convenient option for recycling. There are several alternatives available for recycling. Some private trash haulers offer recycling pickup. There is also the option of drop off at the landfill in Earl Township. The Delaware Valley Landfill is obligated by contract with Berks County to accept recyclables from all Berks County residents. They are located at 583 Longview Road. Directions to the landfill are: Route 73 west, left on Chapel Lane (fruitstand across from Earl Elementary School), straight up the hill the recycling center is located on the right. The center is open to the public Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm.

A Paper Retriever bin is located at the Township building, at the park driveway entrance for your use.



Welcome are: newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office and school papers, mail.

NOT accepted: cardboard, food boxes, phone books or hard cover books.

Our average yearly paper recycled is 15-20 tons.

**Welcome**

To Jerry Silberman who was recently appointed by the Board to serve on the Planning Commission.

**Tax Collection - time change**

August 27, 2014 collection time has been changed to 3:00 - 5:00 PM

**Douglass Village**

Did you know that Douglass Township is home to one of the two over 55 active adult modular home communities in Berks County. Douglass Village is located at Broadmoor and Ben Franklin Highway.  
[www.Douglassvillagehomes.com](http://www.Douglassvillagehomes.com).

**MaPaw Siberian Husky Rescue**

Located at 899 Douglass Drive, Douglass Township. The MaPaw family consists entirely of volunteers.  
[www.sibes.com](http://www.sibes.com) or call 610-369-0055.



Douglass Township is an official drop off site for the national program, Toys for Tots. Drop off is scheduled for the last week

in October through the first week of December. Check the Township website for exact dates as we get closer.

**Wanted**

The J.K. Boyer Boyertown Community Library is seeking a Douglass Township resident to represent Douglass Township by serving on their Board. If interested please contact the township office at 610-367-8500.

**Pine Forge Historical Society**

The Friends of Thomas Rutter are moving steadily ahead with the children's program at the Thomas Rutter Mansion. Children from the community ages 5-12 are invited to come and join every 3rd Sunday from 2-4 PM to learn about the past, the present and the future. Plans are also being formulated for a youth program from ages 13 to 18.

In 2016 the Rutter Estate will be celebrating 300 years since Thomas Rutter built Pennsylvania's first iron forge. The community is invited to join in and learn about township colonial history.

For more information on becoming a member, or their other activities, contact Phyllis Mitchell at [tutorphyl@gmail.com](mailto:tutorphyl@gmail.com) or 610-367-7881.

# Douglass Township

Berks County  
1068 Douglass Drive  
Boyertown, PA 19512

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DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

## **Elected and Appointed Officials**

### **Township Supervisors**

Chairman Douglass Rhoads  
Vice Chairman Grant Yergey  
Supervisor Rosemarie Bauman

**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** - Harold Wagner Jr., Roadmaster;  
Bill Dunn, Duane Duncan

**Police Department** - Chief David K. Franke, Sergeant John W.  
Dzurek, Patrolman Nicole L. Marth, PT Patrolman Christopher  
Sacks and Robert Wood

**Elected Auditors:** Cheryl Baro, Shirley Birmingham, Linwood  
Dunning

**Planning Commission** - Chairman, Kenneth Kirch, Patricia  
Follweiler, Pete Dannecker, Grant Yergey and Jerry Silberman

**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, Sally Stetler

**Agricultural Security Committee** - Robert Shaner, Donald  
Grim, David Howerter, Warren Lloyd, Douglass Rhoads

### **2014 Township Meetings:**

**Board of Supervisors:** 7:00 PM -January 6, February 10,  
March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11,  
September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8.

**Planning Commission:** 7:00 PM -January 21, February 18,  
March 18, April 15, May 21, June 17, July 15, August 19,  
September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

**Park and Recreation Committee:** February 3, March 3, April  
7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 2, October 6,  
November 3, and December 1.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** 7:00 PM the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month  
as needed

**Agricultural Security Area Committee:** 6:00 September 9

## 7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch

While “Douglass Township Municipal Park” is not the catchiest name in the bunch it is one of our four park gems and it brings to the table its own a unique offering. If you have stopped in the township office you know where the park is, but may not have really noticed what is available to you. The park entrance is a couple hundred feet down the road from the township building. A very short trip on the gravel drive brings you to the Pavilion, drive a couple hundred more feet and you’ll wrap around to parking at the back of the ball fields.

The property is largely devoted to the top notch baseball and softball fields. Under a long standing gentleman’s agreement with the township, the Pine Forge Athletic Association has invested in the light system, pays their own electric bill, has installed batting cages for their own use and helps with ongoing park maintenance by caring for the infield, tending the weeds on the fence lines and, from time to time spreading a little grass seed or helping out in other ways. PFAA volunteers have also expanded the parking area, installed concrete seating pads for those who wish to watch a game, and have added a long, decorative retaining wall that lends a finished, classy look to the fields.

Township residents can use the fields, but in consideration for the effort and expense put in by the club volunteers, it is both polite and necessary to first seek and receive permission from the Township Manager. Our Township Manager will coordinate with PFAA leadership and give priority to the ball club’s schedule. Depending upon what you have in mind for the fields, you may or may not be granted permission, and if approved, the Manager will let you know which field is OK to use. If the activity you have in mind is an organized tractor pull, expect to be denied. Pulling weeds, tossing a Frisbee in the outfield or catching fireflies?.....odds are good. A friendly game of kickball or softball during the family picnic?.....that may depend upon the time of year.

While the ball fields are this park’s focal point, you don’t have to be directly involved in the clubs or even step foot on the field to love this park and benefit from the setting. Much like a golf course, with or without a game there is something about well-kept baseball fields that lend a pastoral ambiance to the setting. Municipal Park offers playground equipment to occupy the kids, a large pavilion that you can reserve through the township office for your family cookout or picnic with friends, and ready access to public restrooms along the back of the township building.

Tennis anyone? Yes, we have a couple of tennis courts that you are welcome to use on a first come first serve basis. There is plenty of time to get your game in because the lights are on until 10:00 pm. If you are tuning up for Wimbledon you may be disappointed because the courts are showing a bit of their age, but if you’re looking to have a little fun and get in a bit of exercise, stop over and give them a try.

Because our Police Department is based in the municipal building and there are a few houses nearby, this park feels extra safe and lends itself to bringing the little ones. Whether you’re holding hands with your significant other or pushing a toddler in a stroller, navigation on the recently completed macadam trail is now easy for everyone. One lap is a modest 3/10ths of a mile so you are never too far from where you started and never really out of sight. If you have a little more trouble getting around than you used to and would like to try out the macadam trail, there are options to park a little closer.

If you are at a stage in life that doesn’t involve running your own kids around to activities, you may even want to consider taking in a game. You can check Pine Forge Athletic Association’s web site for games scheduled for the Douglass township fields.

Stroll along the path, maybe catch a bit of a game and absorb a little bit of that fun, no pressure atmosphere.

-Pete Dannecker