



Douglass Township Newsletter

Douglass Township
1068 Douglass Drive
Boyertown, PA 19512

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

Supervisors Meetings are
held the second Monday of
each month at 7:00 PM

Chairman:
Doug Rhoads

Vice Chairman:
Grant Yergey

Supervisor:
Rosemarie Bauman

Planning Commission
meetings are held the third
Tuesday of each month

Park and Recreation
meetings are held the first
Monday of each month

Winter Newsletter
February 2016

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 19, 2016 held at the Township Building at 10AM for all Township children. Please pre-register by March 14 on the form provided in this newsletter. Forms can be dropped off, faxed, mailed or emailed to the Township Office.



Community Day - Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate for our 2015 Community Day. Mark your calendars for October 1, 2016 and keep your fingers crossed for good weather.

Congressman Patrick Meehan's office has a representative at the Amity Township Offices at 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, every Monday from 9am - 2pm to assist all residents.

Elections 2016 : Primary election is April 26. General Election is November 8.

Thank You to Douglass Village Residents for your assistance with folding and preparing 1500 newsletters for mailing.

Thank You Mike Yarnall for your many years of service to the Park and Recreation Committee.

Tax Collection - When paying your taxes to the Tax Collector, if you request a receipt, please bring both copies of the bill. If not, the tax collector will charge for creating duplicate bills. 2016 Tax Collection Dates at 82 Winding Road: March 7, 14, 21, 28 from 6-8PM; April 4, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28 from- 6-8 PM. April 20 and 30 - from 9am - Noon

Thank You Boy Scout Troop #523 for the Christmas Wreath for the Township building.

Spotted Lanternfly - The spotted lanternfly is an invasive species that has been found in Douglass Township. For more information on what to look for, check the Township website.

Phone Number / Email - there are times when it would be helpful to have phone numbers and emails for our residents. If we are planning on work around your home, or there are special situations a resident needs to be made aware. If you would, please email or call us with your information. Thanks!

Tenant Registration - Douglass Township Ordinance states that all landlords shall notify the Township of their tenants within 30 days of the date of occupancy, and on an annual basis, by January 13. Information required: Tenant names, age, address and phone number. Forms can be found on the Township website.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PLEASE BEWARE OF SCAMS - Please be aware of the different phone scams going on all over the country lately. If you receive a phone call where the person is asking for any type of personal information, hang up and notify the police. Some scams regard IRS payment demands. The IRS NEVER calls taxpayers, their only form of correspondence is through the mail. Another scam requests you need to send money to help a relative. Always check personally with your relative to determine the validity.

So remember, if anything seems "off" to you, it most likely is. Don't hesitate to contact the police department. Never hesitate to report that you might have been victimized or swindled.



Congratulations to Douglass Township's Police Chief John Dzurek who in September, was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Police Chief. John has been with the Township Police Department for ten years.



Congratulations to Duane Duncan upon his graduation from the Police Academy. Duane is now Douglass Township's fourth full time police officer.



Left to right:
Jim Yost, Kyle Bohn, Chief Dzurek, Bryan Sockel, Christopher Sacks. Yost and Sacks are part time Officers. Not pictured is part time Officer Brandon Breitenstein.

Residents, if you see any activity that seems suspicious to you, no matter how big or small, please call the Police. You know your neighborhood, so when something seems not right to you, most likely, it isn't. Remember, times have changed and it is necessary to keep your house and cars locked.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



Welcome to the newest members of the Township road crew: Kevin Albiser and Robert Alberts.

Pictured left to right; Roadmaster Howie Wagner, Kevin Albiser, Rob Alberts

Berks County Recycling Collection

Household Hazardous Waste - April 16 at Governor Mifflin School 600 Governor Drive, Shillington and October 22 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

Electronic and Tire Recycling Center - Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8:00 AM - Noon, 1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport.

TAX INCREASE

2016 OPERATING BUDGET

The township board of supervisors has decided to increase local property taxes by one mil effective this year. We understand that government taxes are a controversial issue and we do not make this decision without serious consideration. We are charged with maintaining public health, safety and welfare. The safety component of our responsibility includes providing safe roads, emergency services and law enforcement. We are fortunate to have a dedicated road crew to maintain our roads and keep them clear of obstructions, snow and ice. We have fire and ambulance services from adjacent volunteer departments. The law enforcement services can be provided by the state or by local government. The decision to provide local services to improve the quality of law enforcement is the driver behind the current tax increase.

Local versus state police coverage is a polarized topic that all municipalities of our relatively small size in population struggle with. Local police services are not inexpensive but they provide a level of security that cannot be matched by state police, particularly in terms of response time and patrol coverage. In 2016, we have expanded the local force to four full time officers which provides very nearly 24 hour coverage 7 days a week. We have no intention of expanding the full time force beyond this size. We believe that this local level and type of law enforcement is appropriate if not essential to our community and our responsibility as the governing body. We have an excellent chief of police, John Dzurek, who has assembled a team of three officers under his leadership and direction that has already begun to pay dividends on the public investment. In order to expand the force size to four members while maintaining a balanced budget, we determined that the current tax increase was necessary. It is our belief that a modest increase in local taxes (\$100 on an assessed property value of \$100,000) is well worth the benefit of knowing that we have reliable local police that will be there when we need them, to protect and serve.

GENERAL FUND

Income

Taxes	\$ 1,085,757.36
Licenses & Permits	\$ 53,050.00
Fines	\$ 12,500.00
Interest	\$ 15,000.00
Land Rental	\$ 2,800.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 51,100.00
Charges for Service	\$ 65,866.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,200.00
Interfund Transfers	\$ 140,489.11
Refund for Prior Year Expenses	\$ 25,000.00
Total Income	\$ 1,453,762.47

Expenses

General Government	\$ 338,085.53
Police	\$ 504,199.04
Public Safety	\$ 174,958.00
Health & Human Services	\$ 3,475.00
Roads , Streets, Sanitation	\$ 318,560.00
Hydrant Fees	\$ 2,475.00
Recreation	\$ 58,029.00
Insurances	\$ 29,100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,428,881.57

Net Operating Surplus - Deficit \$ 24,880.90

SEWER FUND

Income

Interest	\$ 1,200.00
Permits / Fees	\$ 157,000.00
Finance & Surcharges	\$ 11,200.00
Transfers	\$ 30,594.29
Total Income	\$ 199,994.29

Expenses

Operating Expenses	\$ 18,300.00
Sewage Treatment	\$ 41,000.00
Transfer to General Fund	\$ 140,489.11
Total Expenses	\$ 199,787.11
Net Operating Surplus - Deficit	\$ 205.18

LIQUID FUELS FUND

Income	\$ 160,542.78
Expenses	\$ 160,542.78
Net Operating Surplus - Deficit	\$ -

Berks County Community Shredding Events - 2016

April 23 at Governor Mifflin School 600 Governor Drive, Shillington and October 15 at the First Energy Stadium
Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine. 10 boxes per vehicle maximum.

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

FEBRUARY 2016

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;
Kevin Albiser, Robert Alberts, Patrick McDevitt

Police Department - Chief John Dzurek, Patrolman Bryan
Sockel, Kyle Bohn, Duane Duncan

Part Time Patrolman: Christopher Sacks, James Yost, Brandon
Breitenstein

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, Eileen
Gilbert, Sally Stetler

Agricultural Security Committee - Donald Grim, David
Howerter, Warren Lloyd, Gunnar Scott and Doug Rhoads

2016 Township Meetings:

Board of Supervisors: 7:00 PM -January 4, February 8, March
14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12,
October 10, November 14, and December 12

Planning Commission: 7:00 PM -January 19, February 16,
March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16,
September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20

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

Zoning Hearing Board: 7:00 PM the 4th Monday of the month
as needed