

# Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

MARCH 2017 • Volume 13, Issue 1

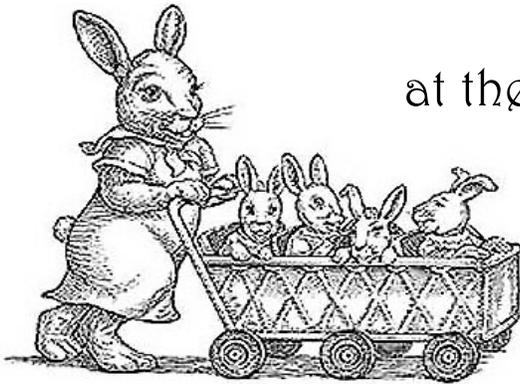
Township Office 610-367-8500 Fax 610-367-0360 Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/douglass](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/douglass) email: [dougberks@comcast.net](mailto:dougberks@comcast.net)

Douglass Township Park & Recreation Committee  
Annual

## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 8 2017

at the Douglass Township Building



- Open to all Township residents and their families.
- For infants, preschoolers & kindergarten to 8th grade students.
- Children Must be pre-registered by April 3, 2017

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE

In case of rain, the event will be held in the Township building

### April 8, 2017 Easter Egg Hunt

Return completed registration by April 3, 2017

Adult Douglass Township Resident \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Name & Ages:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_



# Berks County Recycling Collection 2017



**Household Hazardous Waste** - April 15 and October 21 at the First Energy Stadium , Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

**Pharmaceutical Collection** - Amity Township and Boyertown Police Departments, have drop off boxes

**Paper Shredding Event** - April 22 and October 14 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8AM - 2PM

**Electronic Recycling Center** - Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8:00 AM - Noon, 1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport (near the Reading Fairgrounds). All electronics are accepted.

**Plastic, aluminum, tin, glass food containers**

The landfill in Earl Township accepts these recyclables from all Berks County residents. They are located at 583 Longview Road. Directions: Route 73 west, left on Longview Road (fruitstand across from Earl Elementary), up the hill bearing right onto Shenkel Road, the recycling center is located at the top of the hill on the right. The center is open to the public Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm.

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



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.

Cardboard, food boxes, phone books or hard cover books. Are NOT accepted.

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



### Douglass Township 8th Annual Community Day

Saturday October 7, 2017

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Mark your calendar to join in on the fun

**8:30 AM - 5K Trestle Run / 2 mile walk.** Proceeds from the 5K will benefit the “Challenger Program” of the Pine Forge Athletic Association, a co-ed baseball program for children with disabilities.

#### Activities Begin at 10:30 AM

Games \* Hayrides \* Music \* Moon Bounce \* Yard Sales \* Crafts \* Face Painting

Pumpkin Decorating \* Pony Rides \* Raffles \* Local Businesses, Churches and Fire Companies

**THANK YOU** to Jeremiah Dey for his work in helping to beautify Ironstone Park. As his project to gain Eagle Scout status, Jeremiah planned and planted dogwood trees around the new playground, and sugar maples around the new pavilion including mulching and daffodil bulbs. Spring should be beautiful at the park thanks to Jeremiah!

2017 plans are to repair and resurface the tennis courts located at the Township building and some general “sprucing” up of the area.

**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.

## 2017 OPERATING BUDGET

### GENERAL FUND

#### **Income**

Taxes	\$ 1,109,660
Licenses & Permits	\$ 60,050
Fines	\$ 16,000
Interest / Land Rental	\$ 25,300
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 55,300
Charges for Service / Misc.	\$ 75,216
Interfund Transfers and Refunds	\$ 149,864
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,491,390</b>

#### **Expenses**

General Government	\$ 349,082
Police	\$ 543,387
Public Safety	\$ 175,938
Health & Human Services	\$ 3,975
Roads , Streets, Sanitation	\$ 327,296
Hydrant Fees / Recreation	\$ 51,949
Insurances	\$ 33,126
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,484,753</b>

### SEWER FUND

#### **Income**

Interest	\$ 2,000
Permits / Fees	\$ 174,720
Finance & Surcharges	\$ 9,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 185,920</b>

#### **Expenses**

Operating Expenses	\$ 19,100
Sewage Treatment	\$ 42,000
Capital Improvements	\$ 8,000
Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 109,864
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 178,964</b>

### LIQUID FUELS FUND (road projects)

Income	\$ 167,279
Expenses	\$ 167,279



#### **There are still a few signs left.**

If you would like to show your support for Douglass Township Police, stop by the Township Building and purchase a yard sign for \$20.

**Road Work 2017** - Through the ongoing effort to maintain Township roads, contracts will again this year be awarded to conduct works on various Township roads.

**Zoning - Code Enforcement** - Every Tuesday from 1-4:00 the Zoning Officer has hours at the Township office for any residents who need assistance with building and zoning permits or to answer any zoning questions.

**Penndot** plans on replacing a bridge on Powder Mill Hollow Road in Colebrookdale Township. Due to the location, their only detour choice was through Douglass Township. April through May, traffic will be detoured onto Poplar Road. We really don't expect too much traffic, but we wanted you to be aware.

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

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

**Douglass Township Sewer System** - For those users of the public sewer system, we ask that you please be cautious of what you flush. We have been finding what appears to be some kind of cleaning rags, shop rags at the pump station. Items such as this could cause problems and damage to the pumps.

## From the Tax Collector

Mary K. Heimbach

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. Forms can be obtained from Rep. David Maloney at his Douglassville or Boyertown offices or go to [revenue.statepa.us](http://revenue.statepa.us) to download or call 1-888-PATAXES. Deadline for forms is June 30, 2017 and copies of your "PAID STAMPED RECEIPTED TAX BILLS" must accompany the form.

Per Capita Tax - You can be exonerated from this tax if you are 18 years of age and are a full time student, you are in the military, or you are on PACE. If the PACE guidelines are not met, Section 679 of the School Code is considered. Section 679 sets forth an income of less than \$10,000. Consideration is also given to those with disabilities or medical care costs equal or exceed your income or who have a medical difficulty of a permanent nature. The exonerations are approved by the Boyertown School District not the Tax Collector. Exoneration forms can be obtained from the Tax Collector. Completed forms should be returned to her by October 1, 2017 so she can submit them to the School District. Unless you receive a letter stating you have a permanent exoneration, you must apply every year to be exonerated from this tax. The Boyertown School District has proposed to eliminate this tax for the 2018-19 school year.

Don't forget - when paying your tax bill, and you want a receipt, please include both copies of your tax bill along with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

# 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

MARCH 2017

## **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** - Harold Wagner Jr., Roadmaster;  
Kevin Albiser and Robert Alberts

**Police Department** - Chief John W. Dzurek, Patrolman Bryan  
Sockel, Duane Duncan, Brandon Breitenstein  
Part Time Patrolman James Yost and Christopher Sacks

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

**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 and Sally Stetler

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

### **2017 Township Meetings:**

**Board of Supervisors:** 7:00 PM -January 3, February 13,  
March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14,  
September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11

**Planning Commission:** 7:00 PM -January 17, February 21,  
March 21, April 18, May 9, June 20, July 18, August 15,  
September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19

**Park and Recreation Committee:** March 6, April 3, May 1,  
June 5, August 7, September 5 and October 10

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