

Douglass Township Newsletter

Berks County

Summer 2013 • Volume 9, 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 email: dougberks@comcast.net

4th Annual Douglass Township Community Day Saturday October 5, 2013



Join your neighbors for a day of community fellowship Saturday October 5, 2013 at the Township building for the Annual Community Day. Activities include: pony rides, moon bounce, community yard sale, food vendors, local fire companies, games, music, hayrides, local businesses and churches.

If you would like to sign up for the yard sale, as a vendor, or as a volunteer for the day, call the Township office 610-367-8500.

The day begins with the Trestle 5K run / 2 mile walk at 9:00 AM. The run was named for the trestle at Ironstone Park which is part of the run course. For a registration form and course map check out the Township website, or stop by the office for details.



Annual Closing of Pine Forge Road - Allegheny East Conference will be holding their annual church retreat from June 27- July 7, 2013 Pine Forge Road will be closed from Douglass Drive to Glendale Road for that period of time.

Douglass Drive Resurfacing - Douglass Drive will have an overlay done this summer from Pine Forge Road to Rt. 562. The work is anticipated to be done sometime late in July. This project has been planned for the past two years, with all base repair completed in anticipation of the overlay. The project is paid for with Liquid Fuels funds the Township receives from the State.

Tenant Registration - Douglass Township Ordinance requires all landlords in the Township to report within 30 days of the date of occupancy, and on an annual basis, (January) all tenants by name and address, who occupy any and all of their dwellings. Forms can be picked up at the Township office, or are available on the Township website at: www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/douglass

General Election - November 5, 2013

House Numbers - In cases of emergency, it is vital that your home address be visible to all emergency responders. In an emergency searching for addresses can take up valuable time.

Special Needs - If you or someone in your home has special needs that the Police department should be aware of in case of an emergency, please contact the Police Department, or send in the form that can be found on the Township website.

Township website - www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/douglass
Check out the website for current information as well as information on all township services,

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Was held on Saturday March 23, 2013

With approximately 100 children in attendance, a good time was had by all.



C O D E E N F O R C E M E N T

Summer is a busy time when we work on our homes and properties. The list below summarizes permit requirements for improvements. Permit applications and the fee schedule can be obtained at the township office, or on the website. Fees are not due until the permit is processed. Always be sure that your contractor has all required permits before beginning the work. Any questions, please call the Township office.

No Permits Required

- Roof replacement on a residential structure
- Siding replacement
- Retaining walls not over 4' high
- Non-bearing walls in a dwelling
- Gutters and downspouts
- Security systems
- Resurfacing a driveway
- Replacing a furnace with the same size and type unit
- Invisible dog fences
- Fish ponds

Building Permit Required

- Sheds greater than 120 sq.'
- Porches, decks over 30" high
- Commercial Improvements
- Garages
- Additions
- New dwellings or buildings
- New windows or doors in a load bearing wall
- Signs at commercial properties
- Temporary structures
- Mechanical additions such as piping, wiring, lighting, heating and cooling

Zoning Permit Required

- Sheds
- Pools
- Fences
- Garages
- Additions
- Driveways
- Decks, Patios, Porches
- New dwellings or buildings
- Signs
- Retaining walls over 4' high
- Demolition of a structure
- Any changes of use or occupancy of a commercial building

P O L I C E

**From Chief Franke.....**

Everyone knows the "OTHER GUY", you know, the one who things happen too! How often are YOU the other guy? We want everyone to know that it is easy to become the other guy without trying real hard! In Douglass Township, the "OTHER GUY" got ripped off again by fraudsters who called, got money from someone by fast talking them... another person was visited by someone who identified themselves as a Township Employee... yup, it was not a Township Employee. It is always best to be the Other - Other GUY, who didn't have this happen, but, could it be you? If someone comes to your door... is it to distract you so someone can sneak in your back door and clean out your drawers? After all, you were thinking of throwing that jewelry away anyway, they saved you the hassle? Just because someone comes to your door and rings the doorbell, doesn't mean you have to let them in, OR answer it! If someone says they are from the Township, call the Township to confirm who they are... ask to see ID, and then write down the information. If you are not in the market to buy the Brooklyn Bridge, don't be fooled in to giving your credit card information or your ID, the information can be used to steal your identity. If you have time on your hands, share it, and you will have plenty of work ahead of you as you cancel all your credit cards, try to change your SS #, or spend the rest of your days fighting false entries on your credit history. That is the reality of your future if you allow someone to get your private information. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the police before you give out your info. Thank You.

**Berks County Recycling Collection****Household Hazardous Waste**

October 19, 2013 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

Pharmaceutical Collection

October 12, 2013 at the First Energy Stadium Route 61 Reading, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM rain or shine.

Electronic Recycling Center

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.

Berks County Recycling

Recycling containers are no longer located at the Boyertown Borough garage. The County has changed the program from four days per month, to a full time drop off center and Boyertown will no longer be a drop off point. There are other locations that can be found on the County website: www.co.berks.pa.us/swa.



Pine Forge Senior Babe Ruth will be hosting the Mid Atlantic Regional tournament starting July 31st at their home field at the Douglass Township Building.

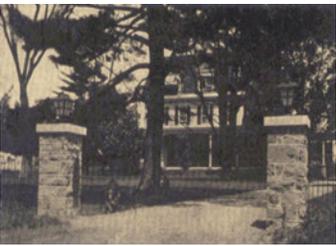
The tournament will include teams competing from PA, NJ, MD, DE and NY. The winner of this tournament will advance to the Senior Babe Ruth World Series in Alabama in August.

HISTORY CORNER

Red Acres, Pine Forge Mansion
by Betty J. Burdan, May 29, 2013

Joseph Bailey died in March of 1904. On May 15, 1907, his heirs, Joseph Bailey Jr., and his sisters Rebecca and Anna, sold the 350 acre Rutter estate, including "Pine," the original Mansion, to Mrs. Mary E. Rutter of Illinois.

Sarah Bailey, sister of Joseph L. Bailey maintained ownership of 18 acres and a second mansion on the estate. Lost to time and memory, this second mansion was known as Red Acres. It was named for the redness of the soil that was excavated on the site. A build date for Red Acres is unknown, but as far back as 1880 there seemed to be two separate family dwelling houses on the estate. We have only one glimpse of Red Acres from an undated postcard. Note the two stone pillars at the entrance.



In 1910, Anna Bailey, still a single woman at age 38, lived at Red Acres, along with a butler, chamber maid, cook, farm hand

and two borders. One border being a G. G. Banker medical doctor of Michigan and his mother Mary. Anna was identified as a poultry farmer in the census. The sister Rebecca was not in the household and brother Joseph Bailey Jr. had died in 1908. Aunt Sarah Bailey had also passed away having devised Red Acres to her nieces, Rebecca and Anna Bailey in her will.

In 1915, Rebecca and Anna Bailey sold Red Acres to Berta and Frank Carew, who in turn sold it to Harold Evans in 1927. In 1929 Evans sold it to William McMurtie Rutter, son of Mary E. Rutter, who owned the balance of the Bailey estate and the estate was once again one.

Through a succession of deeds in the following years, Red Acres became the property of the Allegheny Conference, Seventh Day Adventist along with the entire Rutter/Bailey/Rutter estate. With the start of the Pine Forge Academy, Red Acres became a girls dormitory and served it well. Sometime prior to 1948, Red Acres was razed and only the stone pillars at the entrance were conserved.

TAX INFORMATION

From Mary Kay Heimbach, Douglas Township Tax Collector

My Tax Hours for collecting over the summer:

My home - Mondays - July 8, 15, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Additional dates - August 21, 22, 28, 29 from 6-8 p.m. .

August 24th & 30th - 9am-Noon

Mail or call 610-367-6693 for an appointment.

Per Capita Exoneration

Qualifications adopted by the Boyertown Area School District:

- Commonwealth of PA Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly Act (PACE) guidelines; or
- Section 679 of the School Code is considered. Section 679 sets forth an income of less than \$5,000 for per capita tax exoneration.
- Consideration is given to those whose medical care costs equal or exceeds their income and to those who have a medical difficulty of a permanent nature.
- Residents, 18 or older, that are full time students.

Forms are available at my office and **must be completed and submitted to me by October 1st** for approval by the Boyertown Area School District.

Homestead - Homeowner Tax Relief is only granted to homeowners who have completed and filed Homestead Application Forms with Berks County. Notices are mailed out by the 1st or 2nd week of January to all homeowners that have not completed this form. If you do not receive this form, you can call the Boyertown Area School District at 610-369-7408 to request it. Remember this form must be filed by March 1st to qualify for any tax relief money coming from the Boyertown School District. Also this form can only be filed for your primary residence and if you move you must file a new application for your new residence.

Those stone pillars still exist and presently anchor the World War II Memorial in front of the Pine Forge Elementary School. On close inspection it is apparent that they are the same pillars. The plaque on front honors the men and women of the Pine Forge Consolidated School District who served in World War II.

Dedicated on Sunday, June 27, 1948, by the Pine Forge War Memorial Committee: Anna L. Mellinger; Melvin H. Rhoads; Harry F. Rhoads; Barbara Snyder and Mary Hazel Bowers. The names number 124, three of whom made the ultimate sacrifice: Anthony Bellini; Charles R. Fritz and Paul R. Strocker.

In 1997, Jeffrey A. Lucarelli, head custodian at Pine Forge Elementary, spearheaded an effort to re-point the monument, refurbish the bronze plaque, install lighting and conduct a re-dedication ceremony. The work was completed and the re-dedication ceremony took place on May 31, 1998. Red Acres is gone, but its legacy remains.



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

SUMMER 2013

Elected and Appointed Officials

Township Supervisors

Chairman Douglass Rhoads
Vice Chairman Grant Yervey
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;
Charles Miller; Terry Seyler

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 - Gary Twardowski, Chairman, Kenneth
Kirch, Vice Chairman, Peter Dannecker, Richard Stoudt 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, Sally Stetler

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

2013 Township Meetings:

Board of Supervisors: 7:00 PM -Jan. 7, Feb. 11, March 11,
April 8, May13, June 10, July 8, August 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov.
11, and Dec. 9

Planning Commission: 7:00 PM -Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19,
April 16, May14, June 18, July 16, August 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15,
Nov. 19, and Dec. 17

Park and Recreation Committee: 7:00 PM - Jan. 8, Feb. 4,
March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, Sept. 3, Oct. 7,
Nov. 4, and Dec. 2

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

Agricultural Security Area Committee - 6:00 PM Sept. 9