

Rockland Township
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ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday

9:00AM—4:00PM

(NOTE: The Township Office will be closed between 12:00 Noon—1:00PM for lunch. In addition, there will be times when the office will be closed due to illness, vacation, etc.).

**ALL OTHER TIMES BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, MAY 17, 2022

Polls open at 7:00AM and close at 8:00PM. The Township Office will be closed for Primary Election Day.

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Website: www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Rockland

March 2022 Edition

DON'T FORGET YOUR PERMIT!

Before beginning any project on your property, it is the responsibility of the property owner to contact the Township Zoning Officer or Township Office to inquire about required permits/approvals in advance of project commencement. The following permits are required in Rockland Township.

ZONING AND/OR BUILDING PERMIT—Required for (but not limited to): new construction, additions, alterations, or changes to buildings, structures and accessory buildings, sheds, patios, porches and decks, swimming pools (both in-ground and above-ground), agricultural buildings, plumbing and electrical improvements, HVAC installations, signs, removal or demolition of any building or structure. **Permits are not required for the following: Re-roofing without structural alterations, replacement windows, replacement doors, replacement siding, non-structural alterations, except as they may affect means of egress or occupant travel patterns.**

USE OR CHANGE OF USE PERMIT—Required when the use of a property changes (including for any activity, occupation, business or operation carried on or intended to be carried on in a structure or lot).

DRIVEWAY PERMIT— Required for the construction of a new driveway, to expand driveway or parking area, to reconstruct, improve, pave or blacktop an existing driveway, and to construct and/or pave a drainage area or other means of ingress or egress to a property which connects to a Township or State road. Any driveway work within the right-of-way of a State road requires a PennDOT permit also. An application for a driveway permit can be obtained by contacting the Township Office, and driveway permits will be issued by the Township Roadmaster/Driveway Permit Administrator.

SEWAGE PERMIT—Required for the installation of any new on-site sewage system and corrections/repairs to any existing on-site system. The Township Sewage Enforcement Officer (LTL Consultants, Ltd.) should be contacted with any sewage-related questions and to obtain a sewage permit application.

SOLICITATION PERMIT— Required prior to engaging in solicitation activities in Rockland Township. Applications for a solicitation permit can be obtained by contacting the Township Office.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT—Stormwater management is regulated by the Rockland Township Stormwater Management Ordinance. Stormwater management is required for any proposed earth disturbance, land development, building or impervious surface construction of any property in the Township. The need for stormwater management is determined on a case by case basis depending on the amount of impervious coverage added after the effective date of the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance and the impact of the proposed project on existing grading and drainage patterns. Stormwater drainage plans must be submitted to the Township for review, and the Township Engineer will make a stormwater determination before any earthwork can begin.

PA ONE CALL—If you are installing a fence or deck, or digging for a mailbox post, patio or any other excavation project, it is important to **Know What's Below**. Call 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776 before you dig. The best way to learn where underground utility lines are located is to call before you dig.

Before starting any work (and if you are unsure if a specific project requires a permit), please call the Township Office or other Township officials listed below.

We are here to help you navigate through the rules, regulations and procedures. Permits are required to ensure that your project/improvements are done according to state and township codes and regulations. The act of securing the required permits in advance will reduce the possibility of incurring extensive costs for corrections/remediation and ultimately reduce costs to the taxpayers since expenses are incurred by the Township when Township code officials need to issue violation notices and take necessary enforcement actions.

TOWNSHIP ZONING OFFICER: Adam Bender, Mack Engineering
(484) 529-2930

TOWNSHIP SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: LTL Consultants, Ltd.
610-987-9290

MESSAGE FROM TOWNSHIP ROADMASTER

ROAD PROJECTS PLANNED DURING 2022—The following roads in Rockland Township are planned for construction/improvements in late Spring and early Summer:

SCHWEITZ ROAD (From Fredericksville Road to Five Points Road)

FIVE POINTS ROAD (From Fredericksville Road to Longswamp Township Line)

It is important for drivers to be aware of how dangerous it is working in work zones and to increase efforts to protect themselves and the safety of those who work on our roads. **During times of construction, expect delays and detours due to possible road closures. Please exercise caution and patience in work areas. If possible, you may want to temporarily avoid travel in work areas during times of construction.**

Michael Pott, Township Roadmaster

RECYCLING INFORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS

THE RECYCLING CENTER AT 1316 HILLTOP ROAD, LEESPORT (cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum and tin cans and plastic bottles) IS OPEN DAILY FROM 8:00 AM UNTIL DUSK. CENTER MAY CLOSE FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME TO PROCESS MATERIALS, AS DEMAND REQUIRES. *Glass is no longer accepted for recycling, and no styrofoam is permitted to be dropped off at this center.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING CENTER

1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport, PA (Bern Twp)

*Open every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday (8:00AM—Noon)

*All visitors must remain in their vehicle while on site.

TIRE RECYCLING CENTER

1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport, PA (Bern Twp)

*Open every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday (8:00AM—Noon)

*All visitors must remain in their vehicle while on site.

*Automotive tires only! Fees apply!

BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

*Free to all Berks County residents.

*PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

*All pre-registered participants must remain in their vehicle at all times. All waste must be in trunk of car or bed of truck.

*NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO LATEX PAINT WILL BE ACCEPTED.

DATE: **Saturday, April 9, 2022**

8:00AM—Noon (Rain or Shine)

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

600 Governor Drive, Shillington, PA

BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

*PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

*5 boxes per vehicle maximum

DATE: **Saturday, April 16, 2022**

8:00AM—Noon (Rain or Shine)

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

600 Governor Drive, Shillington, PA

FOR ADDITIONAL RECYCLING INFORMATION, INCLUDING LISTS OF ACCEPTABLE ITEMS AND FEE SCHEDULES, PLEASE CONTACT:

BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

www.co.berks.pa.us/swa

(610) 478-6362

ON-LOT SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

One important reason to properly maintain your septic system is to save money! Malfunctioning septic systems are often expensive to repair or replace. In addition, a malfunctioning system can contaminate groundwater that might be a source of drinking water. Also, if/when you sell your home, your septic system must be in good working order. Below are a few tips to homeowners to help prevent malfunctions.

- **Pump septic tank at least every 3-5 years (depending on tank size and household size)**
- Inspect the septic tank, pipes and drainage field annually
- Conserve water and reduce wasteflow into the septic system
- Avoid putting chemicals into the septic system
- Do not use toilets to dispose of bulky, slowly decomposing wastes
- Maintain accurate records of the septic system (design, repairs, etc.)

MESSAGE FROM LYONS VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

The Lyons Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 would like to thank all the residents for the generous support of our fund drive last year. Your donations help us to purchase and maintain our fire and rescue equipment to better serve our community. The year 2021 was very busy year for our volunteers. Our fire company answered a total of 283 emergency calls last year, with 149 of them in Rockland Township. Of that total, 41 were structure fires, 58 motor vehicle accidents, 13 fire alarms, 8 brush fires, 38 medical calls, 1 vehicle fire, 21 fire police requests, 43 hazmat calls, 34 trees down and public service calls, 2 water rescues and 24 miscellaneous calls. The total fire damage in Rockland Township was \$26,500.

With Spring right around the corner, we also remind all property owners to be careful when burning brush and debris piles. PLEASE DO NOT BURN ON DRY, WINDY, OR RED FLAG WARNING DAYS! A copy of the Township burning ordinance is available on the Township website.

Please watch the Merchandiser and our facebook page for upcoming fundraising dates and information. We can be reached at our station at 610-682-7936; please leave a message.

We would like to remind all residents that we still offer reflective address signs for only \$15.00, which are a great help in locating homes during an emergency.

Our dedicated crew of 25 volunteers remain ready 24/7 to serve our citizens in their time of need.

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

All open burning within Rockland Township must comply with the Township's Burning Ordinance. A copy of the ordinance is available on the Township website, under the "Ordinances & Resolutions" tab. Here are some important regulations set in place to promote safety while carrying out any open burning activity.

- All open burning shall be attended by a person eighteen (18) years of age or older. The open burning is to be attended to at all times.
- The open burning shall not take place either before sunrise or after sunset.
- The open burning shall be completely extinguished (including smoldering) by sunset.
- Precautions are to be taken to regulate, control and extinguish the open burning through the use of fire extinguishers, water hoses, dirt, sand or other fire extinguishing equipment which shall be readily available at the site of the open burning for immediate utilization.
- All items burned shall be readily combustible.
- No open burning shall be permitted within any street right-of-way, gutter or swale.
- There shall be no open burning of any toxic or household hazardous waste, including but not limited to, tires, plastics, petroleum-based products, paint, batteries, pressure treated wood or furniture.
- The burn shall not include materials from a commercial, industrial or other similar non-residential use, including but not limited to, any materials from the salvaging, construction, and/or demolition of any structure.
- All burning shall be done during appropriate weather conditions. Please note: There may be periodic burning bans instituted by the Board of Supervisors during dry spells.

The Township always stresses the use of caution when carrying out any open burning activity and encourages all residents to be considerate of neighbors and neighboring properties. Smoke from fires can infiltrate neighbors' residences (especially during the warmer months). Responsible open burning also avoids any unnecessary burden and risk to our local fire company volunteers.

2022 PUBLIC TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

*All meetings begin at 7:00PM (unless noted otherwise)

NOTE: THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH IN 2022

- APRIL 11, 2022**
- MAY 9, 2022**
- JUNE 13, 2022**
- JULY 11, 2022**
- AUGUST 8, 2022**
- SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**
- OCTOBER 10, 2022**
- OCTOBER 19, 2022 — Budget Meeting (Begins at 4:30PM)**
- NOVEMBER 14, 2022**
- DECEMBER 12, 2022**
- DECEMBER 27, 2022 — Year-End Meeting**

All meetings are held at the Rockland Township Municipal Building and are open to the public.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

*All meetings begin at 7:30PM

- MARCH 29, 2022**
- APRIL 26, 2022**
- MAY 31, 2022**
- JUNE 28, 2022**
- JULY 26, 2022**
- AUGUST 30, 2022**
- SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**
- OCTOBER 25, 2022**
- NOVEMBER 29, 2022**
- *DECEMBER 20, 2022**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN MACKENZIE'S OFFICE (134th District—Pennsylvania House of Representatives)

Apply Now for 2021 Property Tax and Rent Rebate

By State Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (Berks/Lehigh)

Eligible Pennsylvania residents are reminded to apply to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to claim rebates on property taxes or rent paid during 2021. Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Help is available from my district office at no charge, but appointments are necessary. Please call 610-965-9933 to schedule a time when my staff can assist you with the application. Our office is located in the Lower Macungie Township Administration Building at 3402 Brookside Road.

The rebate program benefits eligible residents 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 certain qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The Revenue Department automatically calculates supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners.

The deadline to apply for a rebate is June 30. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1, as required by law. Additional information, as well as claim forms, can be found on the Department of Revenue website, www.revenue.pa.gov.

Since the program's inception in 1971, older adults and those with disabilities have received more than \$7.1 billion in property tax and rent relief. The program is funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery and revenue from slots gaming.

RepMackenzie.com
Facebook.com/RepMackenzie

2022 Tax Collector Hours at Rockland Township Building

APRIL 2022

- TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022—4:00PM-6:00PM
- THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022—4:00PM-6:00PM
- SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022—9:00AM-11:00AM
- TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022—4:00PM-6:00PM
- THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022—4:00PM-6:00PM
- SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022—9:00AM-11:00AM

*Property owners may also mail real estate tax payments to the address on the face of the bill. If you desire a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
MOLLIE PREY, TAX COLLECTOR, 102 ORCHARD ROAD, FLEETWOOD, PA 19522
PHONE: 610-987-6019

MESSAGE FROM THE BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY LIBRARY:

The Brandywine Community Library has two exciting programs coming up in April 2022. The first will be the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles for a **A Brief History of Food Trucks** on **SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd at 2PM** at the library. Highlights of the presentation will include information about the **Boyertown Auto Body Works** which manufactured food trucks and **Army Canteen Trucks**, and we will learn about the **Texas Chuckwagon**. Following the presentation you can visit and support the local food trucks that will be set up in the library parking lot. Then on **APRIL 25th at 6:30PM** stop by to meet local author **Jared Reinert**. Jared will talk about and read from his new book **The Devil In These Hills**. He will answer your questions and have **signed copies for purchase**. Additional event details can be found at: www.berkslibraries.org/branch/brandywine
Heather Wicke, Library Director

AG SECURITY AREA APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN AUGUST

The Rockland Township Board of Supervisors has designated the month of August as the annual period of time when applications shall be accepted to request the addition, modification, or removal of land to Rockland Township's Agricultural Security Area. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Township Office at 610-682-6311 or via email at rocktwp1@ptd.net. Applications for the inclusion, modification or removal of land to the Agricultural Security Area will be accepted at the Rockland Township Office until August 31, 2022.

ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP

41 Deysher Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Phone: 610-682-6311

Website: www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Rockland

Email: rocktwp1@ptd.net

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Elected and Appointed Township Officials

Board of Supervisors:

David Wartenluft—Chairman
Nathan Ohlinger—Vice Chairman
Michele Albright

Township Secretary/Treasurer:

Karen Krall

Township Roadmaster:

Michael Pott

Planning Commission Members:

Richard Mazich—Chairman
William Fredericks—Vice Chairman
William McFadden
Nathan Roush
Nancy Ogden

Elected Auditors:

Elizabeth Coffin —Chairman
Jerry Keller—Secretary
Scott Ballantyne

Zoning Hearing Board:

William Schellenberger—Chairman
Robert Sodaitis
Brian Barrell
Jenifer Geisinger (Alternate)
Duane Bennetch (Alternate)

Emergency Management Coordinator:

Derick Wartenluft

Township Solicitor:

Elizabeth Magovern
Hartman, Valeriano, Magovern & Lutz, PC

Township Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer:

Adam Bender, Mack Engineering
P.O. Box 88
Blandon, PA 19510
(484) 529-2930

Township Building Code Official(s)/Inspector(s):

LTL Consultants, Ltd.
One Town Centre Drive, P.O. Box 241
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-9290

Jim Franey (Contractors Inspection Services, Inc.)
5029 Apple Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
(610) 775-2269

Township Sewage Enforcement Officer:

LTL Consultants, Ltd.
One Town Centre Drive, P.O. Box 241
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-9290

Tax Collector:

Mollie Prey
(610) 987-6019

Township Engineer:

LTL Consultants, Ltd.
One Town Centre Drive, P.O. Box 241
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-9290