

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

Report

Spring/Summer 2020



Information contained in this newsletter was accurate as of the production date. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some information may have changed. Please check our website for up-to-date information.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

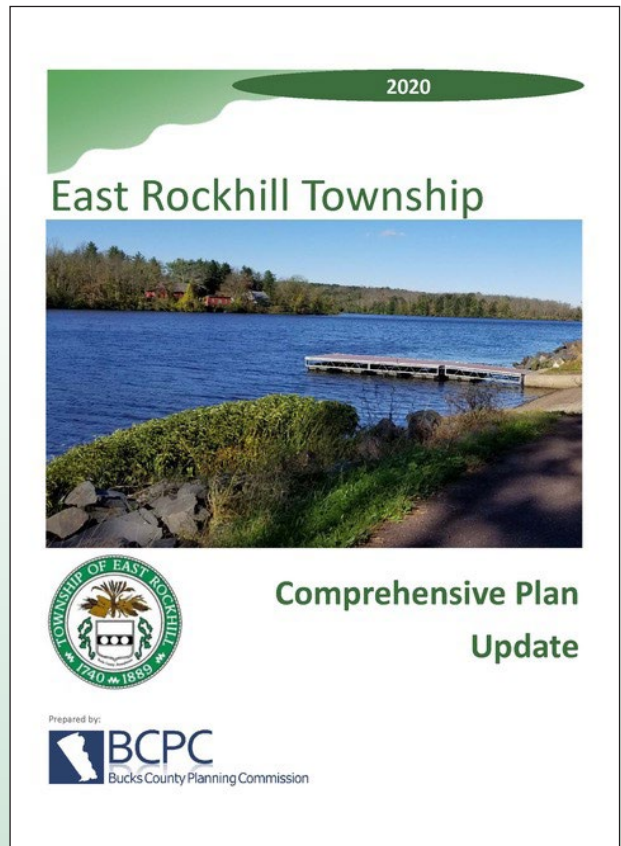
Document will guide future development decisions

The process of updating the Township’s 2005 Comprehensive Plan, a vital document that guides growth in the Township, has been completed and a draft made available for review and public comment online and in the township building.

The Bucks County Planning Commission will be presenting the plan at the Planning Commission’s public meeting scheduled for 7 pm on June 4 at the Municipal Building. Public comments on the plan can be submitted to Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org before the meeting or can be made in person at the June 4 public meeting. All public comments will be officially documented. After the June 4 public meeting, the next step is for the Board of Supervisors to review and adopt the plan.

Your input is welcomed since the plan will help shape the community’s future by providing decision-making guidance on such issues as zoning, open-space acquisition, transportation improvements, water supply planning, stormwater management and sewage facilities planning.

Thoughtful planning is important because the State’s Municipal Planning Code requires townships to provide opportunities for all types of land uses. For example, the Comprehensive Plan adds Agricultural Tourism as an allowed use but imposes sensible guidelines about how and where it can occur. It is the same for other uses such as medical marijuana dispensaries and private rental properties (Airbnb).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Supervisors Notebook.....	3-5	Rockhill Quarry Update	7	Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector.....	11
Promote Pollinators.....	6	Household Hazardous Waste & Recycling	8	From the Fire Department.....	11
Federal Deadline to Obtain REAL ID Approaches..	6	Did You Know?	8	Pool Memberships Available	11
Rain Barrel Workshop	7	Spotted Lanternfly.....	9	Why the 2020 United States Census Matters..	12
Spring Yard Waste Collection.....	7	Your Septic System.....	10	From the Code Enforcement Dept.....	12
Historical Society.....	7	From the Pennridge Regional Police Dept	10	Township Contact Information.....	14

East Rockhill Township • 1622 North Ridge Road • Perkasie, PA 18944

This Edition of The East Rockhill Township Report is published by the Board of Supervisors to keep you informed on timely information about the township and your local government.

Visit us on the web at: www.EastRockhillTownship.org

Your Business Is Our Business



YESTERDAY
143 years of independence, serving businesses of all sizes in our area.



TODAY
Long-time business bankers dedicated to raising the bar on service.



TOMORROW
Strong, true to our roots and committed to the community.



215-538-5600 QNBbank.com

Visit any of our 12 offices in Allentown, Colmar, Coopersburg, Dublin, Perkasia, Quakertown, Souderton, Upper Perkiomen Valley, Warminster & Wescosville



www.communityatrockhill.org

WHAT DOES **INSPIRED LIVING** LOOK LIKE?





IT CAN BE **ACTIVE** ENGAGED CAREFREE

No matter what inspired living looks like to you, it thrives here in our community!

We have immediate availability on select One Bedroom Models. For more information **CALL TODAY!**
267-429-3344

LAPP'S LANDSCAPE PRODUCTS LLC

Wholesale - Retail

ALL NATURAL HARDWOOD MULCH
BLACK OR BROWN HARDWOOD MULCH
WOOD CHIPS • RED MULCH • COMPOST
MUSHROOM SOIL • TOPSOIL

215-257-9040

1828 Old Bethlehem Pike • Sellersville

PICK-UP OR DELIVERY

C. ROBERT WYNN ASSOCIATES, INC.
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

C. Robert Wynn, P.E.
President

211 West Broad Street
Quakertown, PA 18951

OFFICE: (215) 536-7336
FAX: (215) 536-5361
EMAIL: crwynn@msn.com

SERVING MUNICIPALITIES SINCE 1986

Hunsberger Electric

Serving Perkasia & Surrounding Communities since 1932

- We can handle all of your electrical needs •

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING & MAINTENANCE
INDUSTRIAL – RESIDENTIAL – COMMERCIAL
Installation of Security Cameras,
Data, Phone, Motion Lights & Generators
Licensed and Insured

249 W. Market St. • Perkasia, PA 18944

215-257-4592
www.hunsbergerelectric.com



Plug into our experience



**GRIM
BIEHN &
THATCHER**
Trusted Legal Counsel Since 1895



PERKASIE, PA

215.257.6811

WWW.GRIMLAW.COM



A Member of
International Order of the
GOLDEN RULE
The Rule You Know
The People You Trust

Celebrating 100 years of Service
to the Pennridge Community

Bernard Suess
Funeral Home, Inc.
606 Arch Street, Perkasia, PA
215-257-2144

Jeffrey F. Gahman, Supervisor
Mark L. Dunigan, Funeral Director
Funeral Pre-Planning & Pre-Financing
Cremation Services & Casket Selection Room

Considerate, Respectful and Honest
Service When You Need It The Most

Supervisors Notebook

A roundup of news and notes from around the township

WATER QUALITY UPDATE



The state Department of Environmental Protection continues to investigate the Ridge Run PFC site, an area loosely bounded by East Rockhill Road, North Rockhill Road, Bethlehem Pike, and North Ridge Road, and includes portions of East Rockhill Township, West Rockhill Township, and Perkasio Borough.

After one public supply well was found in 2016 to contain combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS that exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's 70 parts per trillion Health Advisory Limit (HAL) and another public supply well was found to contain combined concentrations slightly below the limit, DEP immediately took steps to begin a thorough investigation of the surrounding area.

DEP has implemented email communications to update concerned citizens as the investigation continues. To be added to the distribution list, please contact RA-EP-SEROECB@pa.gov and include 'Ridge Run Updates' as the subject of your email. You can also find information on DEP's website at <http://dep.pa.gov/ridgerun>.

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

After bidding the project several times to make certain the Township was obtaining the most effective cost, including a value engineering clause, for the first time in 25 years, our Township municipal building is set for a major update.

If all goes according to schedule, work is planned to begin May 4 and be completed by mid-November.

The improvements are aimed at accomplishing a number of goals, including additional public meeting space and more security for township employees working in the building.

Utilizing the Capital Improvement fund, this project will not require a tax increase.

Here are some of the highlights of the project:

- Expansion of the township meeting room to accommodate up to 50 people, plus township officials;
- Relocation of the meeting room from the back of the building to the front;
- Installation of technology to make digital presentations possible;
- Roof replacement;
- Construction of new public restrooms;
- Addition of security cameras;
- Township operations separate from public meeting space
- Public water and sewer service.



PUBLIC GOLF DRIVING RANGE

The Driving Range at Willard H. Markey Centennial Park (1418 Ridge Road) is open daily from dawn until dusk for golfers of all levels. Our range features several matted tee stalls, a grassy area to practice fairway shots, and a sand trap to prepare you for those times your shot doesn't go as planned. A bucket of approximately 55 range balls is available using a token system.

Tokens are available at the range from a dispenser for \$5 each. Tokens can also be purchased Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Township Office. You can buy them there for \$5 each or seven (7) for \$33. Senior citizens can purchase tokens for \$4.50 apiece.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers for the Joint Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals, which holds public hearings to review matters pertaining to building construction.

Training and experience may consist of licensure as an architect or engineer, experience in the construction industry, or training or experience as an inspector or plan reviewer.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, please contact the Township office or fill out a volunteer application found online at eastrockhilltownship.org.

Supervisors Notebook

A roundup of news and notes from around the township

2020 BUDGET APPROVED

The Board of Supervisors adopted the township's 2020 Budget with income and expenses in all funds totaling \$4,094,912 with no real estate tax, sewer rate, or street light assessment increases. In 2020, the Board looks forward to continuing to provide the same outstanding level of essential services to residents.

2020 ROAD WORK PLANNED

An overlay on Sterner Mill Road from Mountain View Road to Clymer Road has been approved utilizing funds from the state's Liquid Fuels Program, which comes from a portion of the state tax paid on every gallon of gas.

Grants from the program are based on population and the amount of state roads in a municipality, and are used to support construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public roads according to state guidelines.

KEEP YARD WASTE AND PERSONAL ITEMS OUT OF OPEN SPACE

The township often receives complaints about yard waste, including grass clippings, being dumped in open space, detention basins and waterways.

In addition to being illegal and subject to prosecution, such activity is harmful to the environment. Yard waste will be carried downstream during rainfall events to clog culverts and other facilities in the stormwater system. The resulting reduction in capacity of the stormwater system could cause flooding for you and your neighbors.

Yard waste, as it decomposes, will harm the quality of the storm water within your watershed. We provide twice-a-year curbside collection and have a collection bin available year-round for disposal of yard waste.

However, neither option can be used for grass clippings. We suggest composting grass clippings and using the compost to enrich and condition your soil. If composting is not possible, sweep up grass clippings before they enter a storm drain and put them out for regular trash collection.

Another issue, particularly in the Pines of Pennridge development, is residents whose property borders Township land, taking over open space with plantings, lawn furniture and other items. Please be aware that you will be required to remove those items if we are made aware of them. Also, they need to be moved before a Use and Occupancy Permit will be issued during a re-sale.

SAFELY DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICATIONS

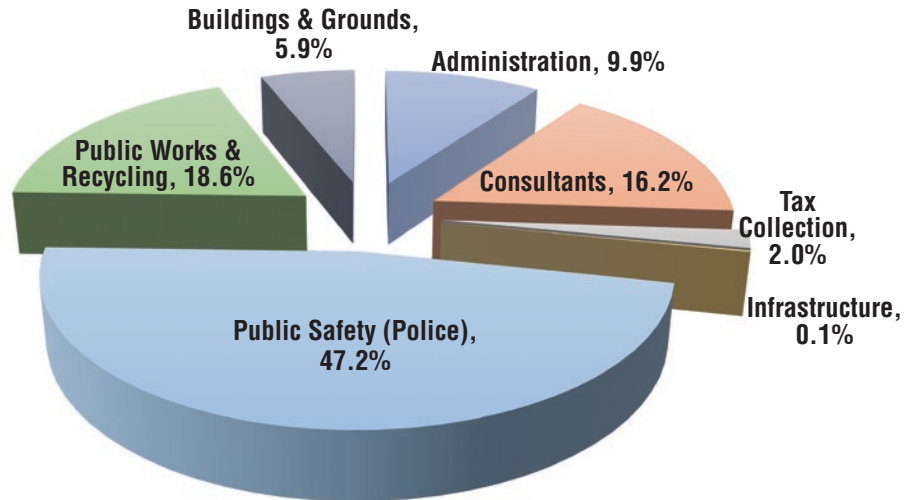
The Pennridge Regional Police Department takes part in a "drug take back" program coordinated by the Bucks County District Attorney's Office, the County Detectives, and the DEA.

The Department purchased a Med Return drop box, which is located in the waiting room of the PRPD building at 200 Ridge Road. Citizens can drop unwanted medication into the box anonymously with no questions asked. The box is routinely emptied and medications promptly turned over to the District Attorney's office for proper disposal.



East Rockhill Township 2020 General Fund Budget

WHERE 2020 GENERAL BUDGET DOLLARS GO...



NO OPEN BURNING ALLOWED IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Township Code Enforcement Department and Pennridge Regional Police would like to remind residents that the burning of trash and recyclable materials -- including leaf and tree waste -- is prohibited by Township Ordinance in compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

Supervisors Notebook

A roundup of news and notes from around the township

WANT TO RECEIVE MEETING EMAIL ALERTS?

To avoid duplicate emails to your inbox, Township meeting agendas and meeting packets will be sent out with meeting email alerts, which you need to select in your account settings.

An email meeting alert notification will go to your inbox as soon as the agenda and meeting packet have been posted, and again after approved minutes are posted. Just log in to your account and in Settings, My Notifications, select the meetings you are interested in.

If you encounter any problems or have questions, please contact the Township office at 215-257-9156. We'll be happy to help.

Thank you for your interest in staying informed!

TOWNSHIP STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU!

Township administration and staff are ready and willing to answer questions or hear suggestions from residents about how we can better serve the community. We are best equipped to deal with day-to-day issues.

The Board of Supervisors sets policy and ensures the administration and staff work effectively and efficiently to carry out their vision.

For a timely response to your questions or concerns, please call the Township Office at 215-257-9156 or send an email to Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org.



PERKASIE FARMERS MARKET SET TO OPEN JUNE 6



The award-winning Perkasio Farmers Market offers a great selection of locally and organically grown produce, meats, eggs, dairy, honey, maple syrup, preserves, baked goods, salads, prepared foods, plants, herbs and more. Visitors also enjoy live music every week and some themed events around holidays.

The market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon at 7th and Market in the borough's town center and runs through the end of October.

You can follow the PFM on Facebook at @PerkasioFarmersMarket for updates.

Thank
you

Thank You to the Businesses

This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments. They play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

CLASSIC EXTERIORS inc



Bill Blazer

- New & Remodeled
- Personal Service
- Competitive Prices
- Fully Insured

Phone/Fax: 215-453-7200 • Cell: 215-669-8529

Email: classicexteriors@hotmail.com

www.classicexteriorsinc.com

PA CONTRACTOR - PA #016450

CATTAIL LTD.



- LANDSCAPE
- FULL SERVICE
- HARDSCAPE
- FREE ESTIMATES
- GENERAL
- FULLY INSURED

Bill Blazer

Phone/Fax: 215-453-7200 • Cell: 215-669-8529

Email: cattailtd@hotmail.com

www.cattailtd.com

PA CONTRACTOR - PA #018928

PROMOTE POLLINATORS

Did you know more than 80 percent of flowering plants require the help of pollinators and that one out of every three bites of food we take is made possible by bees?

Following these simple steps this summer will help to promote pollinators in our area:

- **Provide food** - plant at least three different types of flowers, and avoid invasive species and hybrid plants.
- **Provide a water source** - Pollinators need drinking water for reproduction.
- **Provide shelter** - Leaving a patch of the garden in a sunny, uncultivated spot will allow native bees to burrow. For wood-nesting bees, branches, bamboo and logs are great examples of shelter to promote bee vitality.
- **Reduce pesticide use** - Using fewer toxic pesticides will also protect beneficial insects that help control pests. Never spray a blooming plant; always spray after dusk when pollinators are least active.



For more information on conserving bees and other pollinators, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/conserving-wild-bees-in-pennsylvania>.

FEDERAL DEADLINE TO OBTAIN REAL ID EXTENDED

If you are planning to fly commercially or enter a secure federal building this fall, you will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses or photo ID card. Due to COVID-19, the deadline is October 1, 2021.

While the REAL ID program is optional in Pennsylvania -- the state does not require any resident to obtain REAL ID, and PennDOT will continue to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo ID cards -- after Oct. 1, 2021, a federally acceptable form of identification, including a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a valid U.S. Passport, or a military ID, must be presented to board a commercial flight or to visit a secure federal building.

Federal REAL ID regulations require that PennDOT verify a customer's identity, social security number, Pennsylvania residency, and name changes (if applicable), even if a customer already has a PA driver's license or ID card.

More information about document requirements, including a printable document checklist, can be found on the Document Check page of the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services website, PennDOT said.

There are three options for obtaining a REAL ID product:

- order your REAL ID online if you have been pre-verified;
- visit any PennDOT Driver's License Center, have your documents verified and imaged. Your REAL ID product will arrive within 15 business days;
- visit one of 12 REAL ID Centers and receive your REAL ID product over-the-counter at the time of service. The two closest centers are at 143 S. Gulph Road in King of Prussia and 1101 MacArthur Road in Allentown.

You will pay a one-time fee of \$30 for your first REAL ID product, plus the regular renewal fee for your four-year non-commercial driver's license or a photo ID. The expiration date of your initial REAL ID product will include any time remaining on your existing non-REAL ID product, plus an additional four years, unless you are over 65 and have a two-year license. After the initial REAL ID product expires, you will pay no additional fee, beyond regular renewal fees, to renew a REAL ID product.

REAL ID-compliant products are marked with a gold star in the upper right corner, standard-issue (non-compliant) products include the phrase "NOT FOR REAL ID PURPOSES," per federal regulations.

More information about REAL ID in Pennsylvania, including frequently asked questions and information on documents required for REAL ID, can be found at www.penndot.gov/REALID.



RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP



Have you wondered about how to get started using a rain barrel?

Have all your questions answered and go home with your own rain barrel on Thursday, July 23 when we hold a workshop starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Willard H. Markey Centennial Park located at 1418 Ridge Road.

Pre-registration is required so we can be sure to have enough materials on hand. There is a \$50 fee for materials, which will be provided to you. Registration details will be posted to the Township website and sent to all email notification subscribers.

SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Spring yard waste collection is scheduled by district with no registration required. The 2020 Spring Program is as follows:

- District I: Collection south of and including Ridge Road the week of May 18
- District II: Collection north of Ridge Road the week of May 26

(Check the township website for an exact map of the collection areas.)

Here are a few important reminders about the program:

- Have your yard waste out by the curb by 7 a.m. of the first day of your collection; once the truck passes it WILL NOT return.
- Leaves or grass clippings are NOT permitted; tree branches and brush only. No bags allowed.
- Place tree limbs and branches in neat piles at the edge of the road or driveway.
- Branches are limited to six (6) feet long and no greater than five (5) inches in diameter.
- Piles for pick-up are limited to four (4) feet wide, four (4) feet high, and six (6) feet long.
- Township employees and/or equipment are not permitted to enter private property to remove items.

If you miss the curbside collection or have additional yard waste, the East Rockhill Township Drop-off Center is open Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for township residents and residential personal recycling only; commercial landscapers are not permitted. The center is monitored electronically, and violators will be prosecuted. Please do not leave bags with the leaf and yard waste.

FROM THE WEST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020 FROM NOON TO 5 P.M.

Free Admission! Rain or Shine

At James Park, 1027 Ridge Road

Food Trucks, Music, Local Artisans, Books and Historical Map Sale, Living history exhibits Archeologist demonstrations
The Heritage House at James Park will be open (*the future home of the West Rockhill Historical Society Museum and Research Center.*)

ROCK HILL QUARRY UPDATE



- **Quarrying Operations:** A PA DEP December 2018 cessation order issued after naturally occurring asbestos was found at the site remains in effect and no quarrying has occurred since that time.
- **Asphalt Plant:** On March 3, 2020 Bucks County Judge Robert Mellon issued a permanent injunction as requested by the Township that prohibits the operation of an Asphalt Plant within the Extraction District. Judge Mellon ruled the proposed plant was a “wholly separate use” in violation of Township’s Zoning Ordinance, which prohibits an asphalt plant on property in the E- Extraction Zoning District.

Information contained in this newsletter was accurate as of the production date. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some information may have changed. Please check our website for up-to-date information.

2020 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program for Bucks County Residents

May 9- Upper Bucks – Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School, 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie (Bedminster Township)

June 27 - Central Bucks – Central Bucks South High School, 1100 Folly Road, Warrington

August 8 - Lower Bucks – Bucks County Technical High School, 610 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills

October 17- Upper Bucks – Strayer Middle School, 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown



What will be collected at Household Hazardous Waste Collections:

- Household Batteries – All button types, lithium and rechargeables.
- Lead-Acid Batteries from car, marine, motorcycle, and truck.
- Caustics like ammonia-based cleaners, household lye, oven cleaner, drain cleaner, and metal cleaner.
- Flammables such as oil-based paint, spot removers, gasoline, kerosene, gas/oil mixture, and heating oil (in nothing larger than a 5-gallon container and not more than 220 lbs.)
- Pesticides such as chlordane, DDT, Malathion, Sevin, and rodent poison.
- Common household toxics like photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, weed killer, antifreeze, rust/paint remover, mercury, and CFLs (fluorescent lamps).

Residents may bring a maximum of 25 gallons or 225 pounds of material to the appropriate collection event accepting that specific item.

Do not bring:

- large appliances
- biological waste
- explosives
- radioactive waste
- tires
- electronics

Electronic Recycling

Bucks County has engaged Vintage Tech Electronics Recyclers to accept electronics to be recycled FREE from Bucks County residents in 2020. Items eligible for recycling include televisions, computers, laptops, monitors, printers, cell phones, and other personal electronic devices.

Vintage Tech is located at 900 Wheeler Way, Suite B, Langhorne, PA, and is open for residential electronic drop offs Monday through Friday, from 7am to 2:30pm.

If you have any questions, please call 267.512.6211.

Locally, Perkasie P.C. Repair and Recycling at 1133 N. 5th Street (in the Glenwood Shopping Center) accepts most electronics for recycling for free. There is a fee, however, for some items. Call 215-257-7727 for details.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Township's Public Works Department installs up to four driveway pipes each year. The driveway must be located on a Township-owned road; cost is materials, plus a \$300 installation fee.

If you are interested in using this service, send us an email requesting the installation. An agreement will be mailed to you with notification of the material cost, and an invoice sent after the work is completed.

If you choose to hire a contractor to install a driveway pipe, a Road Occupancy permit is required.



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY BATTLE HEATING UP FOR 2020

If you see a spotted lanternfly – that beautiful but invasive species native to Asia that has spread to 14 counties (including Bucks) in Pennsylvania since 2014 – don't call the police. It's not something they can do anything about.

“Kill it. Squash it, smash it. Just get rid of it,” advises the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. “These are called bad bugs for a reason.”

After you've dispatched the insect, you can report its presence online or by calling 1-888-4BADFLY.

The spotted lanternfly causes serious damage in trees, including oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling and tree dieback. In addition to tree damage, when spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete a sugary substance, called honeydew, that encourages the growth of black sooty mold, which is harmless to people but causes damage to plants.

And, in counties infested and quarantined for the insect, residents report hundreds of the insects that affect their quality of life and ability to enjoy the outdoors during the spring and summer months. Spotted Lanternflies will cover trees, swarm in the air, and their honeydew can coat decks and play equipment.

During the spring and early summer, experts advise destroying Spotted Lanternfly egg masses, which look like gray or tan, unevenly spread, smears of mortar or clay that appear on any smooth trunked tree, stone or other flat smooth surface, including vehicles, campers, yard furniture, farm equipment or any other items stored outside. Simply scrape them off, double bag them, and throw them in the garbage, or place them in alcohol or hand sanitizer.

Penn State Extension has developed additional instructions for homeowners wanting to attack their own spotted lanternfly problems. They advise the following:

- Wrap tree trunks that the insects are climbing with sticky tape, which is available online and from local garden centers. Banding is most effective against nymphs in the spring, but homeowners have had success in trapping adults as well. But sticky tape has trapped birds and small mammals as well. That can be avoided by caging the sticky tape with wire or fencing material wrapped around the tree.
- Remove tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a non-native, invasive plant common in landscape plantings and disturbed areas, such as along the sides of roads. It's a preferred host plant of the spotted lanternfly.
- Attack the insects with pesticides. The extension website advises, “Only use insecticides that are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency to treat any insect on your property. All EPA-registered insecticides have an EPA registration number and a label for appropriate and legal use. Home remedies should not be used against spotted lanternfly because they may be unsafe to humans, pets and plants, and could be illegal.”

The extension website discusses a range of pesticides, including some natural materials.

Why is it important to stop the spread of Spotted Lanternfly? Well, in addition to being an annoyance, the insect can be destructive. A Penn State study in 2019 projected worst-case scenario losses of \$554 million annually and 5,000 jobs. It's already blamed for estimated economic damages of \$50.1 million per year and the loss of more than 400 jobs in the southeastern part of the state.

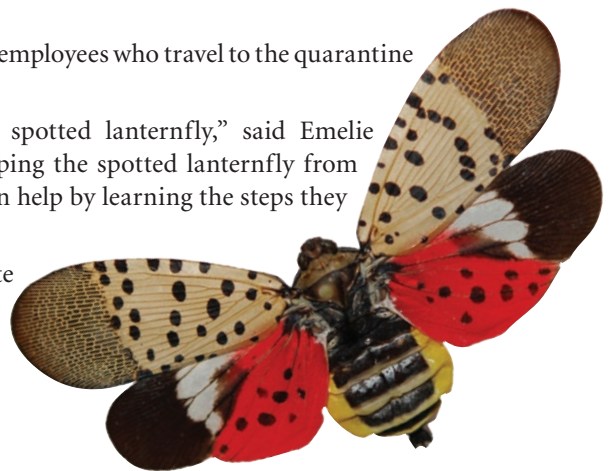
More than 10,000 people attended meetings on spotted lanternfly hosted by Penn State Extension last year, with thousands more reached through displays at community events, including the Pennsylvania Farm Show and Penn State's Ag Progress Days. They hope to reach more people this year with a full calendar of spotted lanternfly presentations planned for the schedule.

The Extension website also holds an online course that provides businesses with the necessary training to receive a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture permit, which is required for companies that move equipment and goods within and out of the quarantine zone.

Nearly 30,000 individuals have taken the course to date, including Penn State employees who travel to the quarantine zone on business.

“More and more people are identifying, reporting and destroying the spotted lanternfly,” said Emelie Swackhamer, horticulture extension educator in Montgomery County. “Keeping the spotted lanternfly from reaching other parts of the state is crucial while we work, and every citizen can help by learning the steps they can take to help stop it.”

To learn more and report sightings, visit the Penn State Extension website or call the spotted lanternfly toll-free hotline at 888-422-3359. All reports are documented and investigated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



ACT 537 UPDATE - SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- To comply with a request from the state Department of Environmental Protection, the township has started updating our Act 537 plan, which outlines how municipalities deal with sewage disposal needs through planning, design, and permitting.
- One of the first steps in the process is to research areas to determine if they are generally suitable for on-lot treatment systems and to identify areas with system failure that require repairs or replacement.
- Once that step is complete, the information will be used to investigate possible alternatives for identified problem areas and to develop an amendment to the Act 537 Plan that addresses alternatives and establishes enhanced operation and maintenance requirements.
- The review will continue into 2021.



FROM THE PENNRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT



Many of you might be looking at a new teen driver in your household. This can be a time of great joy and a time of apprehension. Here are some statistics regarding teen drivers, compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and disability to teens in the U.S.
- The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16- to 19-year-olds than among any other age group.
- Most teen driver crashes are attributed to lack of scanning, speeding, and distractions.

Here are a few ways adults can help teen drivers be safe:

- Make sure they practice with a supervised driver.
- Insist they put down the cell phone while driving.
- Teach them how to avoid being distracted by other passengers.
- Preach a “slower is better” philosophy and model good driving habits.

The process of obtaining a driver’s license in Pennsylvania is completed in several steps:

To get an Initial Learner’s Permit, you must be at least 16 years

old, acquire a Pennsylvania Driver’s Manual, have a physical examination, and complete Form DL-180. For applicants under 18 years old, this form must be completed by a parent, guardian, or spouse who is 18 years of age or older.

Take your eye screening and Knowledge Test at a PennDOT Driver License Center. Once you have passed, you will be issued your Initial Learner’s Permit. Note: Permit holders under the age of 18 are encouraged to schedule their exam for at least six months from the date the initial permit was issued. If you don’t feel prepared to take the test it can be rescheduled.

You must complete a minimum of 65 hours of adult-supervised skill-building. Except for a motorcycle learner’s permit, this requirement includes no less than ten hours of nighttime driving and five hours of bad weather driving as well as the 6-month waiting period.

When you feel prepared, schedule a road test either online or by calling 1-800-423-5542. Additionally, certain third-party businesses are certified by PA DOT to administer the road test for a market-driven fee.

Safe driving!

Is Your Address Visible in an Emergency?

Imagine a member of your family starts having a heart attack and you call 911, you rightfully expect first-responders to get to you as soon as humanly possible.

But if your address number doesn’t stand out well on your mailbox or door, a first-responder might drive right by. You wouldn’t want them to pass by your home in the middle of an emergency when seconds are precious to a positive outcome.

Police, fire and emergency medical personnel, encourage all property owners to take a few minutes to ensure their addresses are clearly visible from the road, especially at night and in bad weather.

The key, according to experts, is to make sure house numbers are large enough, are on a contrasting background and do not blend in too well with their surroundings. First-responders must be able to quickly and easily make out the number from a distance, they say.

Generally, address numbers should be at least four inches in height and for the numbers and letters to be on a contrasting color background.



FROM THE DESK OF KATHLEEN PERCETTI, TAX COLLECTOR

The 2020 Real Estate Tax Bill for Bucks County and East Rockhill Township were mailed to all property owners and are due in the face amount by June 30. After June 30, they are due in the penalty amount.

From 2019 to 2020, there was a one-mill increase in the county taxes. The one-mill increase would raise the county taxes by about \$36.50 per year for the owner of a property assessed at the township average. The township real estate tax rate did not change.

Pennridge School District Real Estate Tax Bills will be mailed on July 1 and can be paid at a discount amount until August 31 or in the face amount until October 31. After October 31, school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year.

If you would like to pay your school district tax bill in installments, the first installment must be postmarked by August 31. The remaining two installment coupons will be included with your original bill. The second installment is due on October 31, and the final installment is due on December 15.



*Kathleen Percetti
Tax Collector*

Please note that if you chose to pay by installments, you cannot opt out after the first payment is made.

If you have not received your county or township bill, please contact me for a copy as soon as possible. State law says that failure to receive the tax bill does not relieve taxpayers of their responsibility to pay the taxes due.

For your convenience, a drop box is available on the front of my garage at 2037 Hill Road for payments.

If you would like to verify that your tax payments were received or have any other concerns, please contact me at 215-453-8866 or by email at eastrockhilltax@comcast.net. I would be happy to assist you with any questions that you have.

FROM THE PERKASIE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Attention Businesses - You May Want to Consider a Knox Box

A Knox Box is a small, wall-mounted safe that holds building keys for fire departments, emergency medical services, and sometimes police to retrieve in emergency situations. Local fire departments can hold master keys to all boxes in their response area, so that they can quickly enter a building without having to force entry or wait for the owner of the property to arrive on scene.

A Knox Box can also cut fire losses for building owners since firefighters can enter buildings without breaking doors or windows. It can also reduce the potential of a firefighter being injured forcing entry.

Volunteers Needed

Did you know that in 1976 there were 230,000 volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania and that today there are just over 53,000?

East Rockhill Township is serviced by five fire companies who are always accepting applications for trained and untrained members. Consider becoming a valuable member of the community by joining Perkasio, Quakertown, Sellersville, Haycock or Dublin Fire Departments who can provide you with the training and equipment you need.

Pool Memberships Available

East Rockhill residents are fortunate to have two excellent municipal pool complexes nearby to provide family entertainment during the summer. Here is some important information:

- **The Menlo Aquatics Center** is located at 425 Arthur Avenue (next to the Samuel Pierce Library) in Perkasio. MAC is more than most expect. Boasting three pools, the complex features a whirlpool, lazy river, activity pool for the kids, baby pool with a frog slide and whale spout, a huge drop slide, and twisting slide. Laps lanes allow serious swimmers to practice their skills. All pools are handicap accessible. Registration for the 2020 season can be completed at www.PerkasioRec.com.
- **Holiday House Pool** is located at 801 Washington Avenue in Sellersville. It features good old-fashioned family-friendly fun throughout the season. In addition to a beautiful pool, Holiday House provides space for bocce, ping pong and corn hole. For more information, send an email to holidayhousepool@gmail.com.

FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

HOW TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

Property maintenance issues and concerns: To report a possible code enforcement issue or concern contact the Township office at 215-257-9156 or report a concern through the Township website. Formal complaints must be received in writing using the form available on the Township website.

Dead animal near my property or on a roadway: On a Township road, please contact Southeast Region PA Fish and Game Commission at 610-926-3136 or 610-926-3137. If the dead animal is located on a State road, the Fish and Game Commission's recommendation is for you to contact PennDOT at 215-345-6060 or 215-766-7680 (fax).

Barking dog: To report a dog that has been barking for a period of 10 minutes or more and makes noise intermittently for 1/2 hour or more, contact the Pennridge Regional Police Department non-emergency number 215-257-2444 or 911 for investigation.

Street light out: PP&L Electric owns the street lights in the Township. Contact the Township with a pole number at 215-257-9156 so the information can be forwarded to PP&L.

Did you Know?

Spring typically generates a number of inquiries from residents. Here are four of the most frequently asked questions:

Yard sales: Residents are permitted to have up to four yard sales on your property per year, with a 30-day interval between and no more than three days in succession. Three 12-square foot signs are permitted to be erected two days before the sale (with the permission of the property owner where they are placed) and taken down on the last day of the sale.

Domestic Pets: Private ownership of a maximum of six domestic pets is allowed. Commercial businesses involving animals are under other specific regulations (contact the Zoning Officer).

Animal Noise: Private animals cannot make noise continuously and/or incessantly for a period of 10 minutes or make intermittent voice for 1/2 hour or more.

Curfew Hours: Excessive noise cannot occur between the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Contractor shall not generate excessive noise Monday to Saturday before 7 a.m. and not after 7 p.m. with no Sundays.

If you are uncertain of these or any other township regulations, call the Township Office before proceeding.



WHY THE 2020 UNITED STATES CENSUS MATTERS

There are two main reasons to be aware that the United States government will be conducting a comprehensive census in 2020:

- **Jobs:** The U.S. Census Bureau is now recruiting thousands of workers just for jobs available in our area. Staffing of team crews is needed all over the country - several hundred thousand! We are hoping that word of mouth will develop in the communities as more and more applicants share information about their experiences and activities. All applications are made online. Applicants should go to www.2020census.gov/jobs to get started. The application process is easy to use and it allows applicants to apply for a range of positions, as summarized below. You will be asked to enter your name and email to set up your application account. The website will cover the details.
- **Funding:** The United States census is much more than just a head count. It is a snapshot of America that determines how congressional seats are apportioned, how state and federal dollars are distributed, where businesses choose to ship products and where they build new stores. Accurate numbers are essential to East Rockhill Township receiving its fair share of these grants.

United States[®]
Census
2020

ROBOTIC-ASSISTED KNEE REPLACEMENT SURGERY



**“I’m back
in the
game!”**

— Wendy Bradshaw
Tennis Coach

HOW ROBOTIC-ASSISTED SURGERY CAN HELP YOU

Board-certified orthopaedic surgeon Paul Weidner, MD, and his colleagues at Grand View Health use the Mako® Robotic Arm-Assisted Surgery System to perform more precise surgery that may lead to less pain and quicker recovery after surgery.

Learn more about the procedure and the unique benefits for partial and full knee replacements at gvh.org/knee.



KNEE REPLACEMENT
GRAND VIEW HOSPITAL

GVH GRAND VIEW HEALTH

New Grand View Health Orthopaedic Center
OPENING SOON, RTE. 309 IN COLMAR

East Rockhill Township Contact Information

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944
 Telephone: 215-257-9156 • Fax: 215-257-1299
www.eastrockhilltownship.org

OFFICE HOURS & PHONE NUMBERS *(Unless Otherwise Noted)*

Administrative Office: Monday through Friday
 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, unless posted otherwise,
 215-257-9156

Road and Public Services: Monday through
 Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, 215-257-9156

Police Emergency: 24 Hours – 911

Police Non-Emergency: 215-257-2444

Fire Emergency: 911

Tax Collector: 215-453-8866

Board of Supervisors:

David R. Nyman, Chair
 Gary W. Volovnik, Vice-Chair
 James C. Nietupski, Member

Administrative Staff:

Township Manager & Assistant Zoning Officer
 Marianne Morano
manager@eastrockhilltownship.org

Administrative Assistant

Bonnie Schorr
admin@eastrockhilltownship.org

Public Works

Jeff Scholl, Director
works@eastrockhilltownship.org

Pennridge Regional Police Department:

200 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA 18960
 Non Emergency Telephone: 215-257-2444
 Emergency Telephone: 911

Tax Collector: Kathleen Percetti;

Mailing address: P.O. Box 68, Perkasie, PA 18944
 Telephone: 215-453-8866
 Office Address: 2037 Hill Road, Sellersville, PA 18960

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors: Regular Meetings are the
 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., except in Dec. -
 meeting is advertised for 12/17.

Planning Commission: Work Sessions are the 1st
 Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. and Regular
 Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.,
 as needed.

Zoning Hearing Board:

Meetings are scheduled as needed

UCC Joint Appeal Board:

Second Wednesday of month as needed at 7 p.m.

Recreation Committee:

2nd Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug, Nov
 7 p.m., as needed

Police Commission:

4th Wednesday of every month at
 7 p.m., at 200 Ridge Road - except in Nov and Dec,
 meeting is advertised for 11/19 & 12/15

THIS YEAR, THE GENERAL ELECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3.

East Rockhill Township is divided into two voting districts, but there is only one polling place:



Christ Community Bible Church
 1830 North Ridge Road • Perkasie, PA 18944

Visit our website for a map of the voting districts.

New voters must show identification the first time they vote in a new district. Voters who are ill or will be away from their designated voting districts on Election Day can download an Absentee ballot from the Bucks County website or pick up a form at the Post Office, Township Building, Wine & Spirit Shoppe, or Library.



Success Rehabilitation, Inc.



We Put You First

...By improving the lives of individuals with a traumatic brain injury or other neurological impairment through residential and/or outpatient therapies.

5666 Clymer Road • Quakertown PA 18951
215-538-3488 • SuccessRehab.com

happy tree



STEPHEN REDDING
Founder

www.happytreeltd.com

FULLY INSURED • REASONABLE RATES

215-257-7650

126 Reller Road • Green Lane, PA 18054

Tree Service, Landscaping, Plant Health Care

Quality work and integrity in our business dealings are the hallmarks of Happy Tree.

- **Professional arborist services** for all large trees including pruning, shaping, deadwood removal, cabling, bracing, cavity work, storm damage repair, hazard evaluation, and tree removal.
- **Complete landscaping services from design through installation and maintenance.** Design services from our own in-house Registered Landscape Architect. We grow our own trees and shrubs to ensure top quality, hardy installations.
- **Cutting-edge plant health care treatments,** including nutritional support, feeding, pest control, and treatment of disease.

“SATISFACTION THAT GROWS!”

 **dunlapSLK**

Certified Public Accountants & Business Advisors

Accounting • Audit • Tax • Business Advisory
Virtual Bookkeeping • Consulting for QuickBooks®
Estate and Trust Services • Payroll Administration
Employee Benefit Plan and ESOP Audits

267.594.3755 • www.dunlapslk.com

THE
ROCKHILL
FILLING
STATION

FAMILY RESTAURANT

1710 N. Ridge Road
Perkasie, PA 18944

*Cozy
environment,
friendly people
& great prices.*

BYOB
Open Monday 7-2
Tues - Sunday 7-8



215-257-9552

Check out our seasonal specials with fresh ingredients
on Facebook @therockhillfillingstation and online at
www.therockhillfillingstation.com



The Commerical
Refrigeration and
HVAC Experts

**DIVERSIFIED
REFRIGERATION
INCORPORATED**



- Design and Installation •
- Planned Preventative Maintenance •
- Service and Repair •

of Commercial Refrigeration, Heating,
Air Conditioning and Ventilation Systems

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

105 High Street • Dublin, PA 18917 • Phone: 215-249-0445
TOLL FREE 1-800-938-COOL • www.divref.com

**BUCKS COUNTY'S FINEST
LUXURY TOWNHOME RENTALS**



Doylestown • Chalfont • Perkasie • Sellersville

844.610.5567

 **HERITAGE**
Property Management



PETS STAY FREE!

heritagepropertyrentals.com

East Rockhill Township

1622 North Ridge Road
Perkasie, PA 18944



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 609



Spring/Summer 2020

hometownpress

This Community Newsletter is produced for the East Rockhill Township
by Hometown Press • 215.257.1500 • All rights reserved®



To Place An Ad Call Denise At Hometown Press • 610-346-6126 • DeniseOfHTP@yahoo.com
Content provided by Joe Ferry • 267-772-0740



215-257-9313

Certified water treatment specialist
30 years experience

Three Generations serving you



- Water Softeners
- Bacterial Control
- Reverse Osmosis
- Well Tanks
- pH Correction
- Iron Reduction
- Well Pumps
- Water Heaters

\$5 off service call with this ad - with payment at time of service

Care & Share THRIFT SHOPPES
MCC

ONE PURCHASE CAN MAKE A **BIG DIFFERENCE**

Spend the day with us Shop: M-W. 9-6; Th-F. 9-8; Sat. 9-6
Souderton Center • 783 Rt. 113, Souderton PA

careandshareshoppes.org • 215-723-0315



Your close-to-home resource

Bucks SMART.
County Community College

- your college degree
- courses & certifications for personal and professional development
- arts & cultural activities

Visit your campus at Hillendale Road or bucks.edu

LBIS LLC
LUCILLE BONDI INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Medicare Supplement Specialists
18 Years Experience in the Senior Medicare Market
Supplements - RX Plans - Advantage Plans

FREE CONSULTATIONS
215-256-5954
Medicare Supplement Specialists

439 Main Street, Rear Building | Harleysville, PA 19438
lucille@bondimedicaresolutions.com | www.bondimedicaresolutions.com