

# EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

## Report

SPRING 2021

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.

### MUNICIPAL COMPLEX BUILDING EXPANSION PROJECT COMPLETED

Our Township Building addition and renovation project is complete and we couldn't be happier with the result.

The improvements accomplished a number of important goals, including more security for township employees working in the building. Here are some other 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 state-of-the-art technology to make digital presentations possible;
- Roof replacement;
- Construction of new public restrooms;
- Upgraded public water and sewer service.

We appreciate your patience during the project.



### Polling Location Change

The Bucks County Board of Elections has announced that all East Rockhill voters will cast their ballots at Bucks County Community College's Upper County Campus located at One Hillendale Road, Perkasie.

**The change is effective for the Primary Election, scheduled for May 18, 2021.**

The previous location was Christ Community Bible Church, 1830 Ridge Road.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

How China's National Sword Policy Affects Our Trash & Recycling.....	3	Supervisors Notebook.....	6-8	Act 537 Update - Septic Systems.....	10
Battle Against Spotted Lanternfly Continues.....	4	Rock Hill Quarry Update.....	8	Pennridge Regional Police Department.....	11
West Rock Road to Close for Bridge Work.....	4	2021 Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events.....	9	From the Desk of Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector.....	11
Development Under Review.....	5	Electronics Recycling.....	10	Update from the West Rockhill Historical Society.....	12
Update on Fireworks Regulations.....	5	Spring Yard Waste Collection.....	10	East Rockhill Township Contact Information.....	14
Perkasie Farmers Market Set to Open June 5th.....	5	Pool Memberships Available.....	10		

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.

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## How China's "National Sword" Policy Affects Our Trash and Recycling

China introduced its "National Sword" policy in 2017 hoping to crack down on the smuggling of illegal goods and to improve its environmental conditions by adopting higher standards for what items the country would import. The policy specifically identified 24 categories of waste that China would no longer accept once the policy took effect in 2018.

Before the policy was implemented, China imported more than 25 percent of the world's recyclables, including more than 50 percent of all paper and plastics, much of it from the United States. The country had fairly low standards for what it would accept, so recyclable waste would often be mixed with trash and contaminated items such as plastic containers with food debris. China's processing facilities would then have to manage all that unusable waste.

In late 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment confirmed that a total ban on imported waste would go into effect in 2021. This means that—as of January 1, 2021—China no longer buys any solid waste imports from the United States or anywhere else. The reduction of China's markets has resulted in an oversupply of commodities, depressing its pricing. In other words, it has become difficult to find a place that will accept our recyclables.

Ultimately, the National Sword policy and its expansion in 2021 means we're seeing a big shift in how American companies export their paper waste. Some entities will certainly struggle this year to find a market for recovered fiber now that China won't buy it, and consumers may see prices rise for paper products because recycled fiber is harder to come by. It will be interesting to see the long-term effects that China Sword has on recycling in the coming years.



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## Battle Against Spotted Lanternfly Continues

Despite our best efforts, the invasive spotted lanternfly continues to pose a serious threat to the Pennsylvania agricultural economy as well as a persistent backyard pest to deal with.

In March, the Department of Agriculture announced eight new Pennsylvania counties are under spotted lanternfly quarantine, bringing the total to 34. While the winged insect is familiar to many East Rockhill residents, it will be new for those in Cambria, Cameron, Franklin, Lackawanna, Montour, Pike, Wayne, and Westmoreland counties.

The spotted lanternfly landed in the U.S. in 2012 in Berks County and has spread to other parts of Pennsylvania and the country. It's an easily recognizable threat to the agricultural industry. The bugs aren't picky when it comes to food, and their feeding habits, coupled with their sticky-sweet excretions that lead to mold, have resulted in harm to everything from fruit trees to grapes to hops to forestry.

A Penn State study released in January found the bug is costing the Pennsylvania economy about \$50 million and eliminating nearly 500 jobs each year. If the insect expanded statewide, it could cause \$325 million in damage and wipe out 2,800 jobs, the researchers estimated.

"The Spotted Lanternfly is more than a pest in the literal sense," Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding said. "It's wreaking havoc for home and business owners, kids who just want to play outside, Pennsylvania agriculture, and the economy of the state we all call home."

"Whether you think it's your job or not, we need every Pennsylvanian to keep their eyes peeled for signs of this bad bug — to scrape every egg mass, squash every bug, and report every sighting. We need to unite in our hatred for this pest for our common love: Pennsylvania."

Last year, the first lanternflies hatched mid-April, but the overall population is more likely to hatch in May, said Heather Leach, a Penn State Extension associate.

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 surfaces, 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 lanternflies because they may be unsafe to humans, pets, and plants, and could be illegal."

## West Rock Road To Close for Bridge Work

Work is expected to begin this summer on the West Rock Road Bridge over Three Mile Run. A posted detour will be in place during re-habilitation of the bridge, which is owned by Bucks County.

Once construction begins, the project is expected to take about five months to complete.



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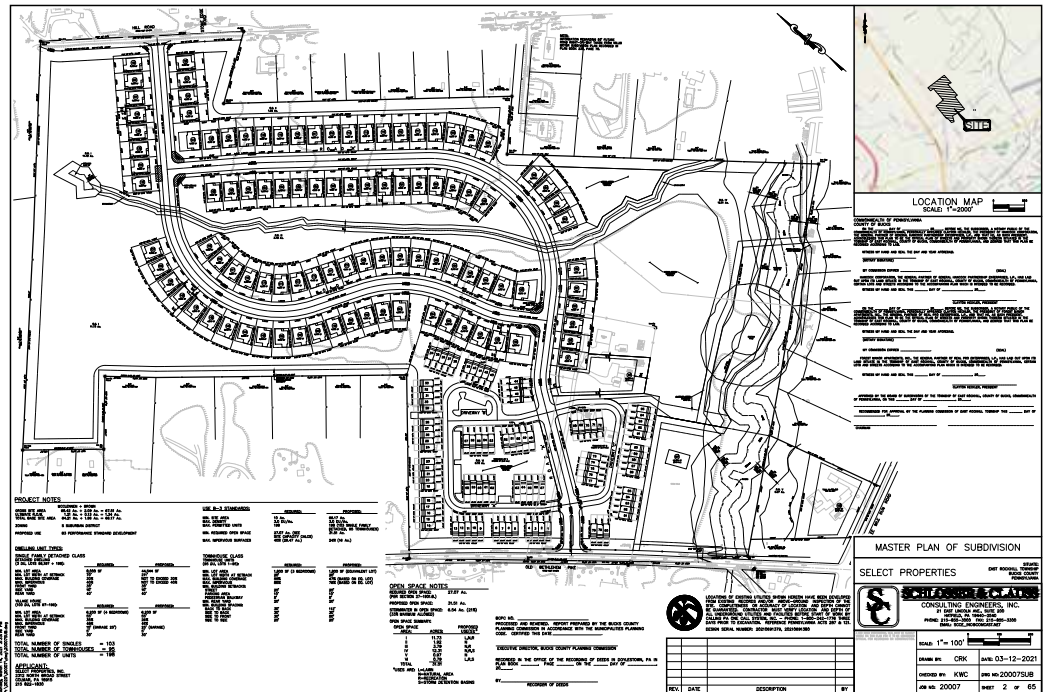
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## Development Under Review

The Planning Commission has begun its review of Select Properties' residential development which will exit onto Old Bethlehem Pike and Hill Road. The plan calls for 198 units, including single-family homes and townhouses, on 65 acres.

Please check our website for updates on meeting dates and times.



### Update on Fireworks Regulations

Now is a good time to remind residents about regulations regarding the use of fireworks. First, police officers will enforce these regulations only if they observe violations taking place. They cannot act after the fact. Here are a couple of important facts:

**Fireworks MAY NOT:**

- be ignited or discharged on public or private property without the express permission of the property owner;
- be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building;
- be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building;
- be discharged within 200 feet of any structure, property line, vehicle, or roadway unless approval from all property owners within the 200-foot area (this distance supersedes state law);
- be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug

## Perkasie Farmers Market Set to Open June 5



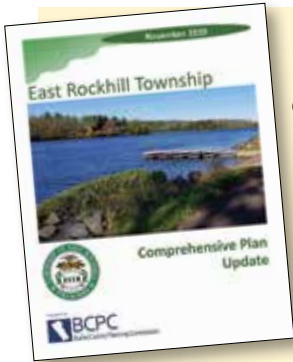
The award-winning Perkasie Farmers Market offers a great selection of locally and organically grown produce, meats, eggs, dairy, honey, maple syrup, preserves, baked goods, salads, prepared foods, plants, herbs, and more. Visitors also enjoy live music every week and some themed events around holidays.

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 @PerkasieFarmersMarket for updates.

# Supervisors Notebook

*A roundup of news and notes from around the township*



## Comprehensive Plan Adopted

In December 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a long-anticipated update to the township's Comprehensive Plan. The approval marked the completion of an exhaustive look at issues concerning how the township will evolve over the next decade or so. The plan's executive summary describes the importance of updating the Comprehensive Plan:

*"It is a process of organizing for the future. It creates a blueprint for our land-use patterns of tomorrow. This process results in a comprehensive plan that is not a legal document nor is it a land-use ordinance. However, like a land-use ordinance, it can and should be adopted. It is an overall plan embracing general goals and objectives with which a governing body agrees, based on input from its constituents, to observe in making day-to-day decisions."*

We are grateful for the hard work of so many people, including our own Planning Commission members past and present, the Bucks County Planning Commission, and the dozens of residents who took the time to express their opinions about how the plan should be updated.

You can read the entire Comprehensive Plan on our website at <https://www.eastrockhilltownship.org/media/2483/2020-final-east-rockhill-township-comprehensive-plan-update-2020.pdf>

## COVID-19 Update

As we head into summer and more people have been vaccinated against the Coronavirus, some activities may return to normal (or something close to it). While welcome, we urge residents to exercise caution, to wear a mask in public (where recommended), to practice social distancing, and to continue frequent handwashing.

As it has from the beginning of the pandemic, the township will continue to follow the guidance provided by the Bucks County Department of Health.

## Public Golf Driving Range Now Open

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.

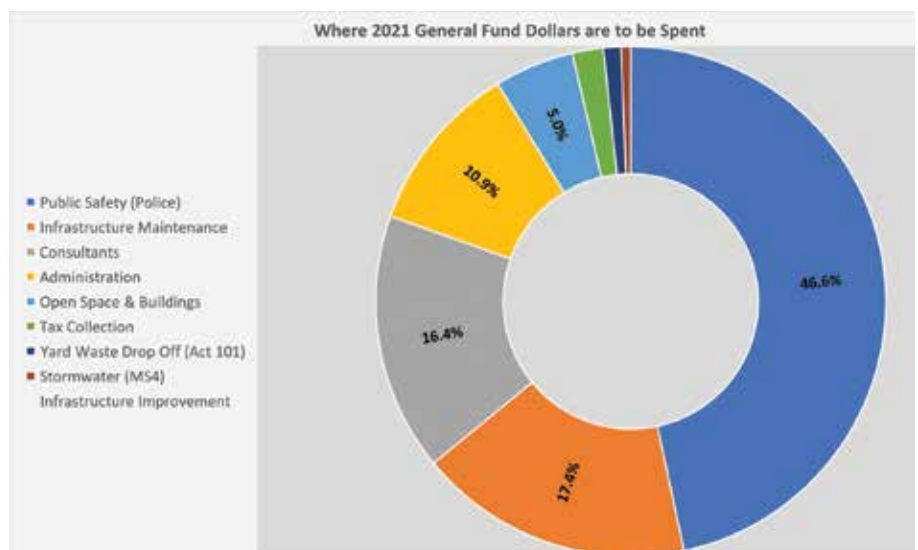
Tokens are available at the range from a dispenser for \$5 each. Tokens can also be purchased Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Township Office. You can buy them there for \$5 each or seven (7) for \$33. Senior citizens can purchase tokens for \$4.50 apiece.



## 2021 Budget Approved

The Board of Supervisors adopted the township's 2021 Budget with income and expenses in all funds totaling \$4,055,706 with no real estate tax or street light assessment increases.

There will be an annual increase to the sewer rate in the amount of \$60 for residential customers and \$70 for non-residential customers. In 2021, the Board looks forward to continuing to provide the same outstanding level of essential services to residents.



# Supervisors Notebook

## A roundup of news and notes from around the township

### Open Space Trees

The Township staff often hears from residents with safety concerns about trees throughout the township. Here are a few guidelines to remember:

- If you spot a dead tree that is in open space and will not damage any structures, it will be left to fall naturally as part of the natural life cycle.
- If you spot a dead street tree, contact township staff; the tree will be removed as time permits.
- If you spot a healthy street tree that has lifted the sidewalk more than two inches, please submit a request in writing with photos for removal, which will be reviewed by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors. Within six months of approved sidewalk tree removal, the sidewalk must be repaired or replaced at the property owner's expense.



### Conservation Easement Purchase

Continuing our efforts to preserve open space, 13.68 acres on Mountain View Drive were placed into a conservation easement utilizing open space funds as approved by voter referendum. Anyone interested in land preservation can submit an open space preservation request for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

### 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](http://eastrockhilltownship.org).



### 2021 Road Work Planned

An overlay on the remainder of Sterner Mill 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 number of state roads in a municipality and are used to support construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public roads according to state guidelines.

### MS4 Compliance

To reduce stormwater sedimentation, a basin on Tunnel Road will be modified to be a dry extended basin, which will result in sediment reduction of 11,143 pounds a year.

### 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, 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 the capacity of the stormwater system could cause flooding for you and your neighbors.

In addition, yard waste, as it decomposes, will harm the quality of the stormwater within your watershed. We have a collection bin available year-round for the disposal of yard waste.

However, grass clippings cannot be placed in the collection bin. 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.

### 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 dropbox, 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.

## Supervisors Notebook

*A roundup of news and notes from around the township*

### 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.



### How You Can Stay Informed

The Board of Supervisors feels it is important for residents to have easy access to information about all Township activities. To that end, we have developed several channels to help you stay informed, including:

- **Real-Time Email Notifications:** on our website ([eastrockhilltownship.org](http://eastrockhilltownship.org)) you can create a login and password to receive real-time e-mail news notifications, meeting agendas, minutes, and updates to bookmarked pages. Once an account is created and the email verified you will begin to receive homepage news postings. Additional email notifications are available for you to select in your account settings.
- **Monthly Enewsletter:** you can have Enews delivered directly to your inbox a few days before each monthly Board of Supervisors meeting. Search for "enews" on our website for an easy subscribe form.
- **Social Media:** we maintain a Twitter account (@EastRockhillTwp) that provides timely updates on important activities.
- **Printed Bi-annual Newsletter:** this newsletter is mailed twice a year to all township residents. It is provided at no cost to taxpayers, thanks to advertising support from local businesses.
- **Contact Staff:** township administration and staff are ready and willing to answer questions or hear suggestions from residents about how we can better serve the community. They 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](mailto:Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org).

## Rock Hill Quarry Update

A PA DEP December 2018 cessation order issued after naturally occurring asbestos was found at the site remains in effect and no quarrying operations have occurred since that time. Hanson Aggregates has requested future site activities be limited to the removal of the minimum 500 tons of aggregate annually from existing stockpiles, collecting monthly NPDES water discharge samples and routine site inspection and security detail. The request is currently under DEP review and a response is anticipated in 2021.



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# 2021 BUCKS COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

**\*\*REGISTRATION FOR EACH EVENT IS REQUIRED.\*\***  
**\*\*PLEASE REGISTER AT BUCKSHHW.EVENTBRITE.COM\*\***

<b>April 3</b>	Lower Bucks	Bucks County Community College 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, Newtown Township
<b>May 8</b>	Upper Bucks	Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie, Bedminster Township
<b>June 26</b>	Central Bucks	Central Bucks South High School 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, Warrington Township
<b>August 14</b>	Lower Bucks	Bucks County Technical High School 610 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, Bristol Township
<b>October 30</b>	Upper Bucks	Strayer Middle School 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township

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## What You Can't Bring

**ELECTRONICS**-TVs-Computers-Cell Phones-Any  
Corded Devices  
**LATEX PAINT**-Non-Hazardous Waste/Water-based\*  
**Appliances**-with or without Freon  
**Asbestos**  
**Explosives / Ammunition**  
**Gas Cylinders**  
**Household Batteries**-Regular Alkaline  
**Medical Waste / Prescription Drugs**  
**Non-Hazardous Waste**  
**PCBs**  
**Pressurized CFCs / Freon**  
**Propane Tanks**-Greater than 15 oz.  
**Smoke Detectors**  
**Radioactive Waste**  
**Tires**  
**Unidentified Waste**

\*Remove lid to allow to air dry or mix with absorbent (e.g., kitty litter) until no longer a liquid and discard in plastic trash bag.

For additional information on disposal options, contact:

**Bucks County Planning Commission**  
[www.buckscounty.org/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.org/recycling)  
215-345-3400

or  
The PADEP Recycling Hotline at  
1-800-346-4242



## What You Can Bring

Up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products. Hazardous products will have cautionary words on the label, for example: *Danger, Warning, or Caution*. Other words or phrases that can signal hazardous products include: *poisonous, hazardous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling*.

<b>Pesticides</b>	- Oil-based Paint	<b>Fire Extinguishers</b>	<b>Batteries</b>
- Chlordane	- Paint Thinner	<b>Toxics</b>	- Button Batteries
- DDT	- Spot Remover	- Antifreeze	- Lithium Batteries
- Malathion		- CFLs (fluorescent bulbs)	- Re-Chargeable Batteries
- Sevin	<b>Caustics</b>	- Mercury	<b>Lead-Acid Batteries</b>
- Rodent Poison	- Ammonia-based Cleaners	- Photographic Chemicals	- Car
<b>Flammables</b>	- Degreasers	- Pool Chemicals	- Marine
- Aerosols	- Drain Cleaner	- Rust/Paint Remover	- Motorcycle
- Gas/Oil Mixture	- Household Lye	- Weed Killer	- Truck
- Gasoline	- Metal Cleaner		
- Heating / Motor Oil	- Oven Cleaner		
- Kerosene			<b>Propane Tanks</b>
			- Mini Propane Tanks Only (2 lbs. or less)

## Why bring your household hazardous wastes to a scheduled event?

Household products containing toxic chemicals, like pesticides, oil based paints, solvents, cleaning products, weed killers and automotive batteries can be a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. Never throw these materials into the trash, as the toxic chemicals may harm sanitation workers, or result in fires in collection vehicles. It is also not safe to pour them into a sink or storm drain as they can end up in the environment polluting the air, water, or soil.

 **BCPC**  
Bucks County Planning Commission  
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215-345-3400 Fax: 215-345-3886  
Email: [bcpc@buckscounty.org](mailto:bcpc@buckscounty.org) Website: [www.buckscounty.org/pc](http://www.buckscounty.org/pc)

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**Bucks County Board of Commissioners**  
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, Chair  
Robert J. Harvie, Jr., Vice Chair  
Gene DiGirolamo



03/01/2021

## Electronics Recycling



Bucks County has engaged Vintage Tech Electronics Recyclers to accept electronics to be recycled for FREE from Bucks County residents in 2021. 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, in Langhorne (Lower Bucks) and is open for residential electronic drop-offs at the back of the building Monday through Friday, from 7 am to 2:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please call 267-512-6211.

Locally, Perkasio 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.

## Spring Yard Waste Collection

Our Spring Yard Waste collection is scheduled by district with no registration required. The 2021 Spring Program is as follows:

- District I: Collection south of and including Ridge Road the week of May 17.
- District II: Collection north of Ridge Road the week of May 24.

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, grass clippings, and invasive plants such as bamboo 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 five (5) feet long and no greater than four (4) inches in diameter.
- Piles for pick-up are limited to four (4) feet wide, four (4) feet high, and five (5) 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 noon for township residents and residential personal recycling only; commercial landscapers are not permitted. The center is monitored electronically, and violators will be prosecuted. Please follow the posted notifications at the site.

## 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 a twisting slide. Laps lanes allow serious swimmers to practice their skills. All pools are handicap accessible. Registration for the 2021 season can be completed at [www.PerkasioRec.com](http://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](mailto:holidayhousepool@gmail.com).

## 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.

## From the Pennridge Regional Police Department



### Veteran Officers Call it a Career

After more than three decades of dedicated law enforcement service to local residents, Pennridge Regional Police Chief Rodney Blake and Detective Darryl Lewis have retired.

Both men started their careers in 1988 in West Rockhill Township under the direction of Chief Frederick P. Crean. In 1992 West Rockhill merged with East Rockhill and Sellersville Borough to form the Pennridge Regional Police. Both officers had very rewarding careers and both are the longest-tenured police employees serving.

Lewis served as a DARE Instructor, Field Training Officer, SWAT member, and Detective. Blake served as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Sergeant, and Chief of Police. Both Darryl and Rod went to Souderton High School and both started and now will be ending their careers together.

An interesting note is that both Chief Blake and Detective Lewis have been involved in the hiring process of every current Pennridge Regional Police employee.

Both want to thank the community for allowing them to protect and serve. They have commented many times that they would not have wanted to police anywhere else.



*Rodney Blake and Darryl Lewis in 1988...and 32 years later!*

## FROM THE DESK OF Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

The 2021 Bucks County and East Rockhill Township real estate tax bills have been mailed to all property owners. There was no increase in the millage rate from last year.

County and township bills are due in the face amount by June 30. After June 30, they are due in the penalty amount.

Pennridge School District real estate tax bills will be mailed on July 1 and are due in the discount amount by August 31 or 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 bill in installments, the first installment must be postmarked by August 31. The remaining two installment coupons will be mailed in September. The second installment is due on October 31 and the final installment is due on December 15. Please note that if you elect to opt in to pay by installments, you cannot opt-out after the first payment is made.

If you have not received your county/township bill, please contact me for a copy as soon as possible. State law states 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 will be happy to assist you.

## A Brief History of East Rockhill



The West Rockhill Historical Society is not just interested in the history of West Rockhill. Over the years, members of the Society have also researched and accumulated some of the history of East Rockhill.

The first landowners in Rockhill were English, but the first people to reside in the area were the Lenni Lenape, who preferred the valleys of Butter and Branch Creek. The original Quaker settlers were soon outnumbered by German Mennonites. In the very early days, the township was known as “Servants,” as William Penn had originally reserved the land for indentured servants.

Rockhill Township was established in 1740, The township was aptly named due to its rugged, wooded hills and rocky soil. Rockhill township originally included Sellersville, Perkasio, and Telford, and was the largest township in the county, both in size and population until 1890.

By about 1870, the surrounding towns were established due largely to the Pennsylvania Railroad, which traversed the region. The separate East and West Townships, of equal area, were not formed until 1890 after a 20-year contest in Bucks County courts.

In upcoming articles, West Rockhill Historical Society will share some of the history we have learned about the people and places of East Rockhill Township. If you would like to share any history, documents, or photographs with us, please send an email to [brephe@gmail.com](mailto:brephe@gmail.com)



This photograph was taken around 1948 of what was then known as the East Rockhill Hotel. The building has a long history of providing the citizens of East Rockhill with services that go back to the 18th century.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the building was a place for both weary travelers and their horses to stop over along the dusty road to rest and eat. The hotel served as a place for citizens and travelers to gather and socialize. As the township grew and changed so did the hotel.

In the 20th century, the East Rockhill Hotel provided services of a different type when in 1950 the owners installed gas pumps, as seen in the photo. When this photograph was taken the building was owned and operated by Emily and Albert Kaupp. The East

Rockhill Hotel was later purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Emil Jacoby Sr. and once again provided a place to sit, socialize and have a great meal.

Emil’s Restaurant became locally famous for its Pennsylvania Dutch Dish, Oyster Pie, Emil Jr. later took over the restaurant from his father and continued to provide great food at reasonable prices into the 21st century. Through its history of service to “fill up” horses, automobiles, and people, the current owners choose to name the restaurant The Rockhill Filling Station and continue its long history of providing great local cuisine.

### Update from the West Rockhill Historical Society

As 2020 brought many challenges to the way we work and live, it was no different for the Historical Society, whether it was the manner in which funds were raised, the approach to educational programming, or the continued restoration of the Heritage House.

The Historical Society celebrated its 18th year in March. The group prides itself on being an international organization, with members in Australia, and many more that live out-of-state.

The pandemic gave society members a rare opportunity to examine how they bring educational programming to those in the organization, no matter their address, as well as to the general public. As with most organizations, the Society began using Zoom for meetings and programs and then went a step further by creating videos. This gave the Society the ability to not only add to the historical archives, but at the same time, to reach the general public by permanently posting programming and videos on the website, Facebook page, and recently created YouTube channel.

Please visit the Society’s website for this year’s scheduled programming and videos that can be viewed by the general public. We currently have two videos: “Heritage House and Barn Tour” and “Where the Church Spires Rise to Meet the Blue of the Sky” (a video on the Ridge Valley churches).

In the fall of 2019, the Society leased the farmhouse in James Park with the intention of renovating the building for their headquarters, museum, and research center. In October 2020, the society had the name of the farmhouse officially recognized as the Heritage House. The name better reflects the many owners of the house over its 170-year history.

You can follow renovation progress to the Heritage House and barn on the Historical Society website ([www.westrockhillhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.westrockhillhistoricalsociety.org)) or Facebook page (West Rockhill Historical Society of Pa).

The Society continues to seek monetary and in-kind donations for the continued renovation of the Heritage House and barn. How can you help? Send a donation to The West Rockhill Historical Society P.O. Box 282 Sellersville Pa. 18960 or through Venmo (Emmadoodle1) or PayPal ([bphelan@westrockhillhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:bphelan@westrockhillhistoricalsociety.org)).

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# EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

## *General Information and Directory*

[www.EastRockhillTownship.org](http://www.EastRockhillTownship.org)  
[Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org](mailto:Staff@EastRockhillTownship.org)

### ADMINISTRATION

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944  
 Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 215-257-9156

### PUBLIC WORKS

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944  
 Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
 215-257-4136

### PENNRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA 18960  
 Office: 215-257-5104  
 Emergency: 911  
 Non-Emergency: 215-328-8502

### ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

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

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

### TOWNSHIP STAFF

Marianne Morano, *Township Manager*  
 Jeff Scholl, *Public Works Director*  
 Bonnie Schorr, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Susan Burger, *Finance Clerk*  
 Paul Behr, *Mechanic*  
 Kirby Richards, *Laborer*  
 Latrell Belfield, *Laborer*

### MEETING DATES

Board of Supervisors	4th Tuesday, except in December meeting is advertised for 12/21, 7:00 PM
Planning Commission	1st and 2nd Thursday as needed 7:00 PM
Park & Recreation	2nd Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug, Nov as needed 7:00 PM
Police Commission	4th Wednesday except Nov and Dec meeting is advertised for 11/18 and 12/16, 7:00 PM
Zoning Hearing Board	Scheduled as Needed
UCC Joint Appeal Board	2nd Wednesday as needed 7:00 PM





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