

# EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

## Report

Fall/Winter 2023



### *Pennridge Regional Police Adding New Law Enforcement Technology*

The Pennridge Regional Police Department will soon add a significant technological improvement to monitor traffic offenses and criminal activity.

A portion of a \$646,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency will be used to install Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRS) at three fixed locations in the Township.

PRPD Chief Paul Dickinson Jr. says the ALPRS will allow the police department to monitor traffic issues, increase traffic enforcement abilities, and improve investigative abilities. The ALPRS are capable of scanning hundreds of license plates per minute, aiding in the enforcement of traffic laws, identifying and locating stolen vehicles and wanted parties, and identifying vehicles involved in crimes, he says.



PRPD is coordinating with East Rockhill and West Rockhill on the logistics for the implementation of the ALPR network. PennDOT must also approve mounting the devices on the traffic light poles.

The following intersections have been identified as prime locations for these devices:

- Rt. 313 and Mountain View Road
- Rt. 313 and Ridge Road
- Rt. 313 and Fifth Street.

Another portion of the grant has already been used to upgrade the police department’s records management system. The upgrade to the records management system has allowed for more efficient report writing and updates in the way crimes will be reported to the state and federal governments.

“As always, we thank you for your continued support of the Pennridge Regional Police Department,” said Chief Dickinson. “Together, we can make our community safer and more secure.”

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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](http://www.EastRockhillTownship.org)

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## 2023 Fall Leaf Collection Set

East Rockhill Township began its leaf collection program because of the need to keep stormwater inlets clear. The leaves collected are taken to facilities that recycle them into compost. If you have a composting lawn mower, consider using it to leave the composting leaves in place to benefit your lawn instead of piling them up at the road for collection.

Leaf collection is weather- and time-dependent, among other factors. We do our best to stay on schedule, but unfortunately there may be times we get behind. The streets in each zone below are not listed in the order in which they are serviced.

Please be prepared for leaf collection to occur on your street on any day during the week(s) your zone is scheduled for. **Leaves must be placed by 7am on the first day of your specified collection week. Leaves placed after your scheduled pick-up week(s) will not be collected.** Because of the large amount of collection that needs to take place, we are limited to a one-time collection of each street.

Please pile leaves as close to the roadway as possible. **The machine cannot reach farther than the shoulder, so leaves beyond that point will not be collected.**

### **SECTION I: Week of October 23**

Axe Handle Road  
Clymer Road  
Covered Bridge Road  
Fox Hill Road  
Richlandtown Road  
Stern Mill Road

### **SECTION II: Week of October 30**

Butler Lane  
Crest Drive  
Dell Drive  
East Rock Road  
Harriet Drive  
Meadow Lane  
Old Bethlehem Road  
Ridge Road  
School House Road  
Schwenkmill Road, West (above Ridge Road)  
Three Mile Run Road  
Tower Circle  
Tunnel Road  
Valley View Lane  
West Rock Road  
Willow Drive

### **SECTION III: Week of November 13**

Azalea Court  
Blue Rock Drive  
Boulder Drive  
East Rockhill Road  
High Point Circle  
Hill Road  
Holly Drive  
Muskrat Road  
North Rockhill Road  
Old Bethlehem Pike  
Overhill Circle  
Park Avenue  
Pebble Court  
Richhill Road  
Ridge Run Road  
Rocky Mount Drive  
Route 313  
Shale Circle  
Stone Edge Road  
Woodbridge Court  
Woodhollow Court

### **SECTION IV: Week of November 27**

Arrowwood Drive  
Blooming Glen Road  
Branch Road  
Bridgeview Drive  
Bryant Drive  
Buck Drive  
Campus Drive  
Cedar View Drive  
Creekview Road  
Deer Run Road  
Dublin Way  
East Callowhill Street  
Evergreen Lane  
Fifth Street  
Firethorn Drive  
Greenleaf Circle  
Hillendale Road  
Lark Lane  
Owl Lane  
Pine Court  
Schwenkmill Road, East  
Schwenkmill Road, West (below Ridge Road)  
Seven Corner Road  
Sunnyside Lane  
White Road  
Winterberry Drive

### ***Reminder: No Open Burning Allowed in the Township***

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




 VOTE

# November 7, 2023

**WHEN:** The General Election is scheduled for November 7, 2023

**TIMES:** Polls are open from 7am to 8pm

**WHERE:** East Rockhill Township is divided into two districts, but there is only one polling place:  
Bucks County Community College: One Hillendale Road, Perkasie, PA

To determine what voting district you are in, check the Voting District Map on the township website (eastrockhilltownship.org). 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.

All Pennsylvanians are now eligible for mail-in ballots. You may request this ballot without reason. If you applied for a mail-in ballot with "permanent status" before the Primary Election, you will receive one for the General Election. If you did not, you will need to re-apply for a mail-in ballot.

- The last day to apply to register to vote is October 23.
- The last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 31 (subject to change). Apply online at [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com) or call the Board of Elections.

**Concerns on Election Day:** If you have concerns on Election Day, call the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Official answers from the PA Department of State on Election Day are available on Election Day at 1-877-868-3772 from the Pennsylvania Department of State; interpreters are available.

## Driveway Maintenance is Your Responsibility

Property owners are responsible for keeping their driveway pipes clear of debris so stormwater can flow in the right of way. Maintaining the driveway so that stone does not go onto the public road, causing traffic safety issues, is also required.

By the way, our Public Works Department installs up to four driveway pipes each year. The driveway must be located on a Township-owned road; the cost is materials, plus an installation fee

according to the current fee schedule.

If you are interested in using this service, please send us an email requesting the installation. An agreement will be mailed to you with a 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.

## Driving Range Schedule

The Driving Range at Markey Park will remain open through Tuesday, November 21, weather permitting. Until then, the range is open daily from dawn until dusk.

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. One token gives a bucket of 55 balls.




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## STAYING SAFE

### 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, an emergency vehicle 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 on a contrasting color background.

### Snow Emergency Route

With winter coming, now is a good time to remind you that the Township's Snow Emergency Route is Buck Drive, Bryant Drive, Campus Drive, Deer Run Road, Fifth Street (Perkasie Borough line to Schwenkmill Road), Greenleaf Circle, Pine Court and Sunnyside Lane.

During a snow emergency, cars cannot be parked on the street along the Snow Emergency Route to allow for efficient snow removal.

Snow emergency situations are announced on Twitter and via real-time email notification when posted to our homepage.

### Protect Your Home From Flooding

With two major waterways in East Rockhill Township -- the East Branch of the Perkiomen and Three Mile Run Creek -- flooding during extreme weather events is always a possibility.

With that in mind, FEMA has produced a brochure to give property owners some helpful suggestions to help minimize damage if flooding occurs. You can download it at [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_protect-your-home-from-flooding-brochure\\_2020.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_protect-your-home-from-flooding-brochure_2020.pdf)



### Turn Around. Don't Drown.

East Rockhill Township has two waterways that tend to overflow their banks onto roadways, including:

- Branch Road and Schwenkmill Road
- Branch Road and Blooming Glen Road
- Blooming Glen Road at Moods Covered Bridge
- White Road
- Stone Edge Road at Three Mile Run Road



### 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.

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## Sheards Mill Bridge Turns 150



Fresh off its makeover, the Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2023. Located on the border of East Rockhill and Haycock townships, the 150-year-old gem that spans the Tohickon Creek needed repairs, including all the deck boards oriented to run the 130-foot length of the bridge rather than across the span to better stand up to traffic. A daily average of 147 vehicles use the 15-foot wide bridge owned and maintained by PennDOT.

*Happy 150th Anniversary!*

## Swimming Pool Discharge Information:

To help protect stream health and aquatic life, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering some helpful tips and (not so) gentle reminders on how to properly close swimming pools for the year. Whether you're a private owner, manage a public pool, or work for a pool maintenance company, these reminders are for you.

Discharged pool water and waters containing chlorine or other chemicals can be detrimental to aquatic life if not handled responsibly. It is extremely important that these waters are handled correctly. Pool water must not be discharged to any storm sewer or land in which a storm sewer is accessible because runoff can cause fish kills and unsafe aquatic conditions.

When draining a swimming pool this year, make sure to protect Pennsylvania by following these tips:

- Pool water may be disposed of through the sanitary sewer system **ONLY** with municipal permission.
- Never dispose of pool water through a storm sewer, which will discharge to a stream.
- If lowering the water level of the pool, let it drain to a lawn to prevent it from running off into a storm sewer.

- If a sanitary sewer system is not available, water may be used for irrigation if it does not run off the property or into a storm sewer.

And don't forget: The discharge of swimming pool water to any waters of the commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law. Property owners and pool companies that violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages. Don't let this happen to you!



## Attention Rental Property Owners

Tenant identification forms are required to be submitted to the Township annually. Please call the Township office if you have any questions.

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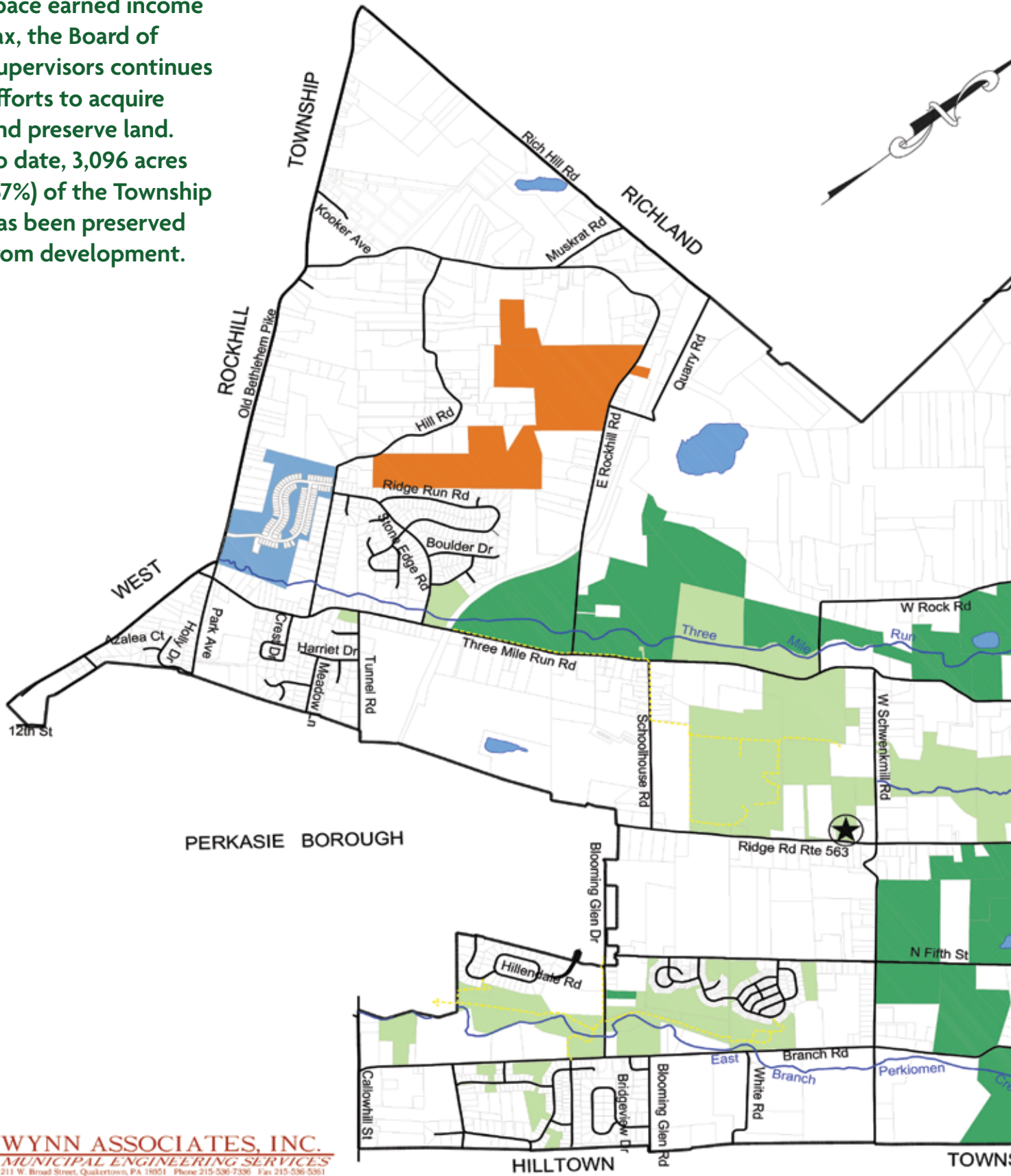
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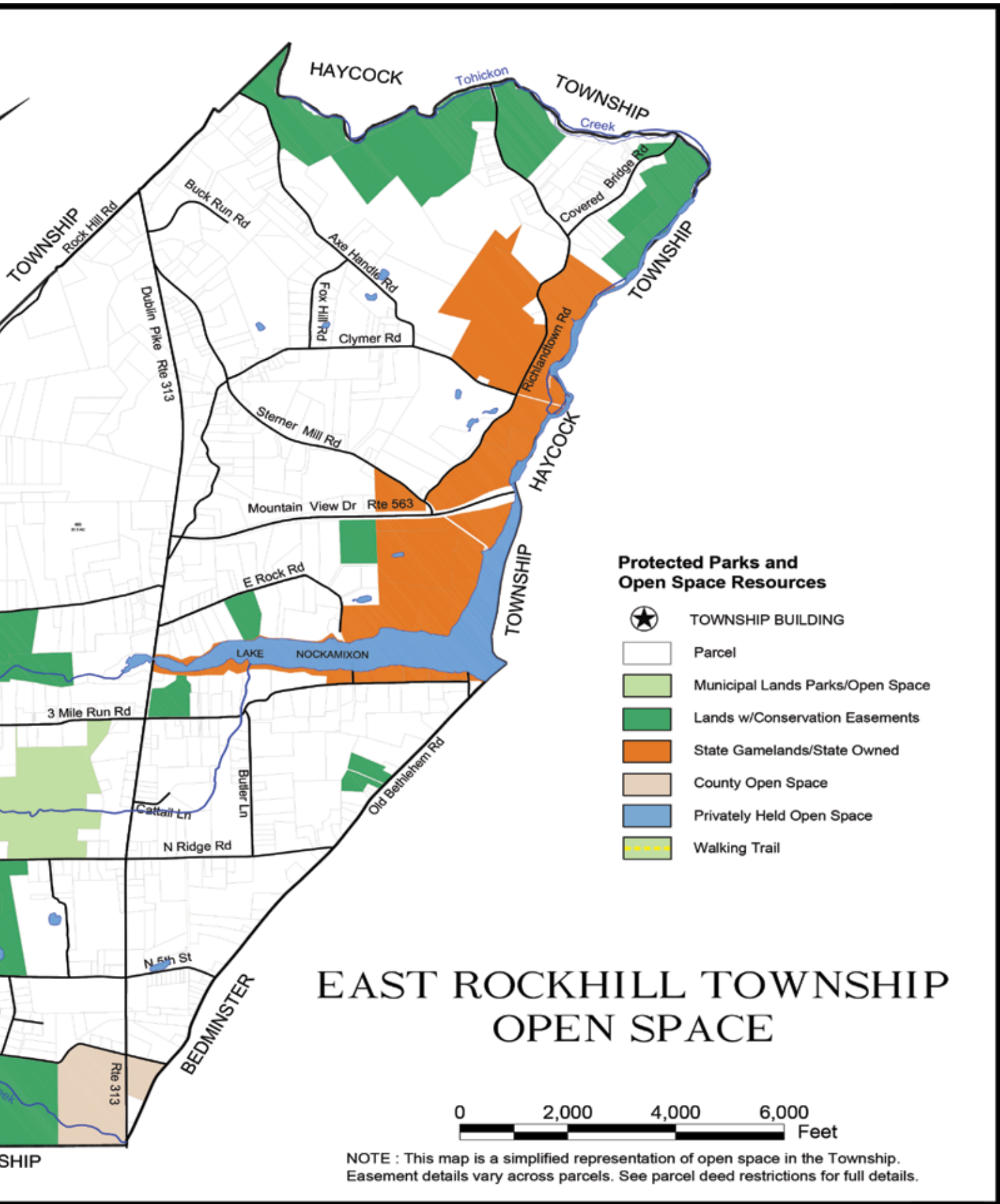


Utilizing an open space earned income tax, the Board of Supervisors continues efforts to acquire and preserve land. To date, 3,096 acres (37%) of the Township has been preserved from development.











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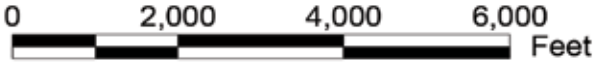




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-  TOWNSHIP BUILDING
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-  Lands w/Conservation Easements
-  State Gamelands/State Owned
-  County Open Space
-  Privately Held Open Space
-  Walking Trail

# EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE



NOTE : This map is a simplified representation of open space in the Township. Easement details vary across parcels. See parcel deed restrictions for full details.

## It's Easy Being Green

Source: [afewthings.org](http://afewthings.org)

- **Don't bag thick-skinned produce:** To reduce the need for plastic bags, don't bother bagging produce with thick skins, including citrus fruits, bananas, and avocados. Their thick, inedible skins make plastic produce bags unnecessary. Place these items directly into your shopping cart or into a reusable bag.
- **Make your garden more wildlife-friendly this fall by simply not cutting back herbaceous perennials:** Herbaceous perennials provide an important winter wildlife habitat for a range of species. Another benefit to leaving them in place until the spring is the slow breakdown of nutrients they will give your soil.
- **Leave a layer of whole fallen leaves under trees and landscaping:** Leaving fallen leaves as mulch benefits your plants as well as insects that need a place to overwinter. Chopping leaves before using them as mulch increases the speed at which they break down, which is great for mulching the lawn. Shredding leaves puts these insects in danger of being shredded themselves before they have a chance to finish their life cycle as adult moths and butterflies. Leaving a thin mat of whole leaves under trees allows them to break down slower and continue to provide that shelter, ensuring a new generation of pollinators and food for nestling birds in the next season.



### Fall and Winter Stormwater Pollution Tips

#### Managing stormwater on your property this fall.

Did you know yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant material such as shrubbery trimmings and grass clippings, are a significant source of stormwater pollution? Debris can clog culverts, storm drains, and pipes, causing flooding. It can also carry fertilizers and pesticides from your yard and deposit them in streams and ponds. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion.

When working in your yard this fall, consider these tips to enhance water quality and manage stormwater:

- Do not pile leaves and other yard waste near streams or drainage channels where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.
- Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off your property into streets, streams, ponds, or drainage swales.
- Plant native trees. Trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than your lawn does.

#### Melting snow is stormwater too.

Stormwater runoff can come in many forms, including melting

*From the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy ([perkiomenwatershed.org](http://perkiomenwatershed.org))*

snow. When the ground is frozen, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way light or moderate rain would be able to. This means even a small amount of snow can cause flooding on your property.

When snow melts, it picks up all kinds of debris and pollutants that will make their way to nearby streams and creeks.

Check out steps you can take to prevent stormwater pollution this winter:

- Start shoveling early. The more snow you remove, the less salt and sand you'll need to use.
- Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity for it to infiltrate into the ground.
- Use deicing products sparingly. Follow instructions and give it time to work. Sweep up any remaining materials.
- Clear away any snow that may have been thrown into the storm drains,
- Salt is not effective once temperatures hit 15 degrees (F) or below. Consider using traction materials that contain acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, or cracked cornmeal.

### Update From PPL

To address frequent power outages on West Rock Road and Three Mile Run Road, PPL Electric Utilities is implementing the following:

- Installing two new trip savers, which will split up the area affected by frequent outages and reduce the impact of any single fault on the line; to be completed before December 2024.
- Replacing OCR with a new Viper device, which introduces better monitoring and remote control in the area; to be completed before December 2024.
- Installing Early Fault Detection (EFD) devices on both feeders to the township by the end of 2023. This cutting-edge technology can identify equipment problems before they lead to an outage.
- Investing in two miles of tree trimming along West Rock Road and Three Mile Run Road. Trimming is underway, weather permitting with additional tree work scheduled for 2025.



### 2023 Budget Process Begins

The Township Administration has started the process of drafting a 2024 budget for review by the Board of Supervisors. As always, our priority will be to provide high-quality services to residents within a reasonable budget.

Budget review meetings will be held at 6:15 p.m., just prior to the regular Board of Supervisors meetings in September and October, and are advertised on our website. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged, so your voice is heard.

## 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 spaces, 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, and your private hauler is required to provide collections services.

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 personal property is not permitted in open spaces.

## Public Works Project

*Design is underway for a new Public Works facility that will include a maintenance bay. It will also allow the township to store our trucks and other equipment in one place. It will be part of the municipal complex on Ridge Road.*



## SENATOR JARRETT COLEMAN

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### Visit our Bucks County office for help with:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications.
- PACE/PACENET prescription medication programs for senior citizens.
- Programs and services tailored to meet the unique needs of veterans.
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- Any other state government-related needs.

### UPCOMING SENIOR EXPO

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## Did you know...

- Public sewer and street light customers can access a Customer Portal to view billing and payment history, make credit card payments (with a convenience fee), set up multiple accounts, and make payments with one transaction. You can also submit an automatic ACH payment authorization form for automatic deductions from your checking or savings account with no convenience fee. Visit [eastrockhilltownship.org/information/sewer-water/](http://eastrockhilltownship.org/information/sewer-water/)
- As part of the Township's efforts to continue to provide valuable services to our citizens, our Municipal Code is available online and is completely searchable. All you have to do is enter a keyword or two, and within seconds your search results will quickly locate the information you need. Visit [ecode360.com/EA2324](http://ecode360.com/EA2324) (The link is also available on the township website).

## How to Be an Informed Township Resident

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 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 subscription form.
- **Social Media:** We maintain a Twitter account (@EastRockhillTwp).
- **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 [Manager@EastRockhillTownship.org](mailto:Manager@EastRockhillTownship.org).

## EYE ON DEVELOPMENT *(An update on significant projects occurring in the township)*

**Old Bethlehem Pike Public Water Line:** At the beginning of September, the Perkasio Regional Authority was nearing completion of a water main extension along Old Bethlehem Pike and Tabor Road (in East and West Rockhill Townships). The line will provide water service to residents who have wells contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs).

PRA is constructing roughly 6,000 linear feet of 8-inch water main along Old Bethlehem Pike north from Three Mile Run Road to Forest Road and an additional roughly 450 linear feet west from Old Bethlehem Pike out Tabor Road. This project will see 11 new fire hydrants installed and provide service to 53 existing dwellings in both East and West Rockhill townships.

**Three Mile Run Road and Park Avenue Roundabout:**

Construction was expected to start in early September and be completed in 8 to 10 weeks. The roundabout is being built by Select Properties as part of the McClennen Tract project that calls for 103 single-family homes and 95 townhouses on the 66.17-acre between Old Bethlehem Pike and Hill Road north of Three Mile Run Road. Construction was delayed for the PPL pole relocations.

**McClennen Tract:** Site work is underway and house construction is expected to begin this fall.

**809 - 901 Three Mile Run Road:** Extension requests have been received from the applicant. The next Conditional Use hearing will be advertised and posted to the Township website. The development is permitted in the Suburban zoning district by Conditional Use, which is an extra layer to the approval process.

## From the Desk of Kathleen Percetti, Tax Collector

Please visit my new tax collector website at <https://eastrockhilltax.wixsite.com/taxoffice>. You will find a lot of good information including updated office hours, the link to pay with credit cards, homestead exclusion application and instructions, PA Rent and Property Tax Rebate, and the Pennridge School District Rebate information.

All 2023 real estate taxes have been mailed. Please contact me if you have not received your bills; I will be happy to email you or send you a copy in the mail.

If you elected to pay the school real estate taxes by installment, the remaining two installment coupons were mailed in mid-September. The second installment is due on October 31, and the final installment 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 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 [eastrockhill@gmail.com](mailto:eastrockhill@gmail.com). I would be happy to assist you with any questions that you have.

## Final HHHW Collection of 2023

- **WHEN:** October 28, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. (rain or shine)
- **WHERE:** Strayer Middle School, 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown

For more information, including a full list of acceptable materials, visit <https://www.buckscounty.gov/444/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Recycling>

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.



## EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

### General Information and Directory

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

### 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

Dave Nyman, *Chairperson*  
 Gary Volovnik, *Vice-Chairperson*  
 Jim Nietupski, *Member*

### TOWNSHIP STAFF

Marianne Morano, *Township Manager*  
 Jeff Scholl, *Public Works Director*  
 Samantha Salemno, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Bonnie Schorr, *Accountant*  
 Paul Behr, *Foreman*  
 Kirby Richards, *Laborer*  
 Latrell Belfield, *Laborer*

### MEETING DATES

Board of Supervisors	4th Tuesday, except in December meeting is advertised for 12/19, 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 11/16 and 12/21, 5:00 PM
Zoning Hearing Board	Scheduled as Needed
UCC Joint Appeal Board	2nd Wednesday as needed 7:00 PM



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