

IN

An INCOMMUNITY Magazine

Phoenixville Area

SUMMER 2015
in-philly.com



**PASD
Kindergarten
Center -
It All Starts Here!**



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EAST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP

1838 • 175 Years • 2013

CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

1158 Rapps Dam Road
P.O. Box 58
Kimberton, PA 19442

Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
www.eastpikeland.org
Phone: 610.933.1770 - Fax: 610.933.0919

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ronald M. Graham - Chairman
Russell L. Strauss - Vice Chairman
J. Benson Campbell - Supervisor

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Kimberly Moretti - Manager
Kisha Tyler - Zoning Officer
Stephanie Nattle - Secretary

EAST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

610.935.0606
Chief James Franciscus

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Al Cushman - Director

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meets 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

PARK & RECREATION BOARD

Meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Hearings are scheduled as applications are received

Manager's Messages

Kim Moretti, Township Manager

- WHY VOLUNTEER?** Volunteering gives you the opportunity to learn about the functions and operations of local government; it allows you to gain knowledge of local resources that are available to solve community needs; it gives you an opportunity to become invested in the community; it brings people with shared interests together; it sets a good example for our children; and it allows you to share your knowledge and experience. East Pikeland Township is currently seeking volunteers to serve on several committees.
- VOLUNTEER VACANCIES.** There are currently vacancies on the following volunteer committees: Open Space Committee, Park & Recreation Board, Historical Commission and the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). If you are interested, go to the township website and fill out a **Volunteer Position Form** found under the "Boards and Personnel" Tab. Complete the form and email it to: secretary@eastpikeland.org or drop it off at the township building.
- PARK & RECREATION BOARD:** The Park & Recreation Board includes seven members, serving 3-year terms. There are currently 2 openings on the Park & Rec Board. The Board helps plan and implement recreation projects, for both parks and trails; they make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on park development; and they assist with two main community events each year: the Easter Egg Hunt and Family Movie Night. Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.
- ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:** The EAC is comprised of seven members, serving 3-year terms. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. The EAC advises the Board of Supervisors on environmental issues and policies; they review subdivision/land development plans and offer their opinion relative to environmental issues affecting those plans. If you have experience and/or an interest in environmental issues, this is a good volunteer opportunity for you. There are currently 3 vacancies to fill on the EAC.
- OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC)** is made up of nine members, serving 3-year terms. They meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and currently has 1 vacancy. The OSC is designed to protect, preserve and manage open space in East Pikeland. Land within the township is identified, reviewed, evaluated and rated in hopes of acquiring it for open space purposes. The committee ultimately makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on this research.
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION:** East Pikeland Township is rich in history. The Historical Commission was created to preserve, promote, protect, and enhance historic resources within the Township. The commission meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and currently has two vacancies. Members serve five-year terms.



With our winter weather finally behind us, we would like to commend the township's Public Works Crew – Al, Gene, Ray and Mike - for the many long hours they worked behind the wheel of a snow plow truck. According to department records, the township got 33 inches of snow from 24 separate storms. They applied 539 tons of salt and/or anti-skid, drove 6,654 miles and worked many hours of overtime in order to keep the roads safe for drivers.



POTHOLES...

has become a dirty word around here. Unfortunately, the weather we had over the past two winters has done major damage to the roads. The township makes every attempt to address the potholes as soon as they appear. Many of the pothole problems were on State owned roads, such as Merlin, Coldstream, Hares Hill and Pothouse Roads. That means it is the responsibility of PennDOT to repair those roads. When PennDOT was unable to address the pothole problems in a timely manner, the township Public Works Crew stepped in. This past Spring the township applied 15 tons of material to State roads in order to repair potholes. Summer road repair projects will begin in late June. For a complete list of roads to be repaired, see the township website.

KIMBERTON PARK PAVILION



Reserve the pavilion for your next party or picnic!

The pavilion holds six 6-foot picnic tables to accommodate 35-40 people.

Also available to rent are the tennis courts, basketball court and roller hockey court.

The Park Facilities Application can be downloaded from our website and rental fees apply to all reservations.

Call the Township for availability.



Do your part to recycle. Check with your trash hauler to determine if you can put all items in one container or if you need to separate paper from other recyclables.

Mixed Paper

Newspaper, cardboard, paper bags, magazines, all mail, phonebooks, paper, paperback books, paper egg cartons, clean pizza boxes and box board (cereal, cake & cracker boxes).

Glass

Clean food & drink bottles and jars only.

(Rinse & remove lids - labels need not be removed)

Aluminum

Beverage cans, pie plates and clean foil.

Bi-Metal cans

Rinsed food & beverage cans, empty metal aerosol cans.

Plastic

#1 through #7 plastic containers *(rinse & remove caps).*

ITEMS NOT RECYCLABLE

Light bulbs, plate glass & window glass, drinking glasses, crystal, ceramic cups and plates, flower pots, mirrors, ovenware, paint cans, caps & lids, oil cans & bottles, food wrappers, plastic bags, wax & plastic coated boxes, tyvek plastic envelopes, tissues, towels, napkins & metallic wrapping paper.



EAST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP - YARD WASTE RECYCLING CENTER

NEW Hours of Operation (Location A& B):

Location A will no longer be open in the evening hours

Monday - Friday - 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturdays - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(April through November)

Materials Accepted:

Location A

Leaves & Grass Clippings ONLY

Location B

Branches Brush, Tree Trimmings, Ornamental Grass, Garden Waste & Weeds

Beginning April 6, 2015 there is a \$5 fee charged for loading of mulch and compost into residential and commercial vehicles by the Public Works crew. Residents may load their own vehicles at no charge.

DELIVERY CHARGE FOR COMPOST or MULCH - \$50.00 per truckload

We are currently taking orders - Call the Township (610) 933-1770

Mulch/Compost Loading Hours By Public Works

Weekdays 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Saturdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Beginning June 1, 2015 there will be a fee for commercial drop off of yard waste. Landscaping/yard work contractors must provide proof that the materials they are dropping off are coming from a property within East Pikeland Township.

COMMERCIAL DROP-OFF FEES - CASH ONLY:

\$5 per pick-up truck

\$10 per trailer or dump truck

- Commercial/Landscaper drop-off must be from properties located within East Pikeland Township. Verification from property owner is required.
- Resident drop-off - Proof of residency will be required.
- Township reserves right to reject any and all loads for any reason.
- Mixed loads will be charged a higher tipping fee at the discretion of Public Works Department.
- All fees subject to change.

East Pikeland Township Family Movie Night at Kimberton Park

Saturday, October 3 • Fun begins at 6pm • **Movie begins at dark**



Wizard of Oz Costume Contest
 Come dressed as your favorite character!

Best Child Costume: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place
This category is for any person under the age of 14

Best Family Costume: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place
A family is defined as a group of 2 or more consisting of at least one child under the age of 18 and one parent or legal guardian

Registration starts at 6:00 pm at the Gazebo
 Judging begins promptly at 6:45 pm at the Gazebo

Reminder:
 Dogs are NOT permitted at Kimberton Park

Snacks & Drinks will be available for purchase starting at 6:00 pm

Sponsored by: **Exelon Power**

Movie will be shown on a 30' x 40' inflatable screen.

Discount Movie Tickets

Regal Cinema Premiere Movie Tickets available through East Pikeland Township.

NEW TICKET PRICE

Tickets are now \$9.50 (cash or check only)

Tickets are available year-round & do not expire.

Premiere Tickets are valid at all *Regal, Edward, and United Artist* Theatres Nationwide.



2015 Discount Amusement Park Tickets

Adventure Aquarium

Adult (13 & over) \$19.00 (\$8.77 savings)
 Child (2-12) \$15.00 (\$5.28 savings)

Dorney Park

Adult (48" or taller) \$41.00 (\$15.70 savings)
 Jr. (3+, under 48") \$33.00 (\$2.70 savings)
 Sr. (Age 62+) \$33.00 (\$2.70 savings)

Dutch Wonderland

Regular (age 3-59) \$33.00 (\$8.54 savings)

Elmwood Park Zoo

General (age 3 & up) \$10.00 (\$4.95 savings)

Hershey Park

Adult (9-54) \$48.00 (\$14.80 savings)
 Child (3-8) \$36.00 (\$3.80 savings)
 Senior (55-69) \$35.00 (\$3.80 savings)

Knoebels

Weekday (over 48") \$33.00 (\$ 5.00 savings)
 Weekday (under 48") \$19.00 (\$ 5.00 savings)

Philadelphia Zoo

General Admission \$17.00 (\$ 3.00 savings)

Six Flags Great Adventure - Theme Park

Regular (3+) \$38.00 (\$34.75 savings)

THE KIMBERTON TRAIN STATION



In post-Civil War America, the railroad station was an important symbol of the prominence of the community. The Kimberton Valley Railroad began service in 1871 mostly as a light freight line for shipping agricultural produce to Phoenixville then into Philadelphia on the Reading main line. There was enough passenger service to justify a wood frame structure that stood until 1918 when it was consumed by fire. In the immediate prosperity following the First World War, The Reading Line rebuilt the station to last a hundred years, using brick and stone with a sturdy slate roof. The interior woodwork was solid American chestnut, also detailed for longevity. The combination of the Great Depression and rise of the automobile caused the station to operate for only 15 years with the discontinuation of passenger service in 1934, then freight in 1948. By the early '70's the tracks were gone, but not the building.

Somehow, for over 70 years, the station remained largely dormant while the village of Kimberton underwent modest changes, shielded from large scale development when the state highways bypassed the village center. When the building came on the market in 2011, Jeff Effgen, the owner of the Kimberton Inn, saw the opportunity to provide another historic anchor to the commercial district in the village.

The building was a virtual time capsule, dating back to 1919. Practically nothing had

been removed from the interiors. There was a modest addition on a secondary façade, but otherwise all of the primary features were intact – the interior ticket window and millwork, the waiting room benches and other decorative components – never painted and only requiring a light refresh. The challenge would be finding a new use that could take advantage of these features without requiring major alterations.

Bill Cochrane of James A. Cochrane, Inc. was looking for new quarters for his realty company that would match their corporate values of strong local community involvement and respect for the history of Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania. In leasing the station, Bill feels that the village atmosphere and the strong identity of the historic train station have been major assets to his business.

As an example of the adaptive re-use of an existing structure, there are many insights to be gained from the Kimberton Train Station. The most important is that it was built to last, and had the good fortune to remain virtually untouched until the right owner and tenant came along to offer a new life. It was also designed for public access, with a simple plan that was adaptable to the front and back office needs of a 21st century business. It remains a building with character and presence in a new use that is reinforced by its history.



~ Contributed by: Jim Garrison, Historical Commission

Kimberton Fire Company



Kimberton Fire Company is busy planning its fundraising events for 2015. All proceeds enable the volunteer firefighters to continue to operate and maintain a state-of-the-art fire department that provides fire and rescue services to residents in East Pikeland, West Pikeland, Charlestown, East Vincent and West Vincent Townships.

It's almost time for the annual **Kimberton Fair!** Amusement rides and games, cotton

candy, contests, spending time with friends and family, and oh, those famous donuts! Mark your calendars for the week of **July 20 – 25** when the fair will once again bring family-oriented fun and entertainment to the community. For 87 years the Fair has been the Fire Company's single largest revenue producing fundraiser. It's not just a carnival...the added attractions of agricultural and home art exhibits, fun-filled contests and livestock shows make it a unique event. This year – back by popular demand – will be the Racing Pigs, Goats and Ducks. And everyone will be able to get their "fix" of those mouth-watering donuts as Fire Company and community volunteers make over 8,000 dozen – now that's a lot of dough! For more information about this year's fair, visit the website at www.kimbertonfair.org.

Other upcoming Fire Company fundraisers include the following. For details, visit www.kimbertonfire.org and click on the "Fundraising Events" link on the home page:

Donut Days – June 29 & 30, Sept 28 & 29 and Oct 26 & 27. Those donuts aren't just for Fair time! The Fire Company's Auxiliary has Donut Days throughout the year. Visit their website at www.kfcdonuts.com for details about upcoming sale dates and instructions on how to pre-order.

Run With 61 – Saturday, August 15. 2nd Annual 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk event with T-Shirts, refreshments and prizes for participants.

Touch A Truck – Saturday, September 12. Great opportunity for kids to have hands-on experience with various fire and service vehicles. Event includes games, activities, food and entertainment.

Thank you to everyone who has come out to patronize the Fire Company's fundraisers over the years. If you are interested in volunteering with the fire company, auxiliary, or any of their fundraisers, please call 610-935-1388 and leave a message in the appropriate voice mail box.

From the Desk of Chief James Franciscus



Please check the East Pikeland Township website and Police portal for tips on keeping your home safe and secure while you travel. Complete a **Vacation Request** form if you would like the police to keep an extra eye on

your property while you are away. Visit our Facebook page for information on current events in the Department.

The first responders of East Pikeland urge all residents to clearly display your house number with reflective signage. The reflective house numbers allow responders to quickly locate your residence in an emergency. Keep in mind that whether you have resided in the Township for many years or are a new resident, the reflective house numbers facilitate all responders to quickly locate your home.

I would like to thank the community for their support of the police department. It is only by working together that we can make East Pikeland Township a safe and pleasant place to live and work. If we can ever be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to call on us.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WIN A PRIZE FOR BEING INNOVATIVE!

On the township website and in past issues of the township newsletters we have provided information on how homeowners can implement stormwater management techniques on their own properties – such as installing rain barrels and rain gardens, or other techniques to reduce stormwater run-off. We have affixed stormdrain markers throughout the township to educate the public not to dump anything down the stormdrains. We have posted educational information on our website, at Kimberton Park, and in the bulletin boards along the French Creek Trail. NOW we would like to hear about what you have learned about stormwater management from our efforts. Tell us if you have implemented a stormwater management technique on your property. Send an email to manager@eastpikeland.org and describe your project. We would love to feature some DIY projects in the next issue of In Community magazine. Plus, there will be a PRIZE for the most innovative stormwater management solution that has been implemented by a homeowner.



Accessory Uses, Buildings and Structures

Accessory structures include garden sheds/storage sheds (up to 499 square feet), decks, gazebos, pergolas and tree houses... these items require a Zoning Permit, and must be setback a minimum distance equal to the height of the structure, but not less than 15 feet from the side and rear property lines. Accessory structures shall be located to the side or rear of the principal structure. Footings or other anchoring methods may be required depending on the size. Any shed, pole barn, detached or other structure over 500 square feet requires a Building Permit and must comply with the required setbacks for the specific zoning district. The minimum distance between the principal building and the accessory structure is 10 feet. Tennis, basketball and other sports courts are also classified as accessory structures however, they may require additional permits in compliance with the township's Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Basketball Hoops are not permitted in the roadway and should not be situated within the right-of-way (grassy strip between your house or sidewalk and the road). These portable recreation systems are convenient and fun, but they also create a safety hazard for pedestrians and motorists. Your basketball hoop should be located in your driveway.

Building Permits

Getting ready to start a home improvement project? If the project is structural or involves plumbing, electrical or mechanical work, you must obtain a permit: this includes new home construction, residential additions and renovations, detached garage, deck, swimming pools, etc. Accessory structures such as sheds, gazebos, pergolas, and even driveway expansions also require a permit. You do not need a permit for routine property maintenance such as re-shingling a roof, replacing windows, doors or siding. Construction or renovation of any commercial space including re-roof projects always requires a permit. Processing takes approximately 3 weeks (if the plan meets code requirements).

Burning is PROHIBITED! Ordinance No. 136 prohibits outdoor burning for purposes of disposing of any municipal waste, leaf waste, yard waste or recyclable material. **An outdoor fireplace or fire pit, a small campfire for recreational purposes, and any outdoor wood burning unit for home heating are allowed as long as they are used for their intended purpose.** Controlled burning for Farm Use properties over 5-acres is permitted for agricultural purposes only with prior notification to the township.

Chickens (...and other Animals)

Section 1818 of the Zoning Ordinance is titled Keeping of Animals. In summary, if your property is 1-acre or more, you *may* be allowed one horse, cow, pig, three sheep or goats, ten fowl or rabbits per acre. The provisions vary for properties over 10-acres or those located within the AP-Agricultural Preservation zoning district. Before acquiring any animal(s), other than domestic pets, you should contact the township office to confirm the lot size, number of animals permitted, and shelter and fencing requirements.

Dogs may not run at large; they must be on a leash and under the control of the owner while on a public street, sidewalk, any other public land. It is also very inconsiderate to allow your dog to walk or relieve itself on someone else's property! Be courteous: don't forget the "pooper scooper" and plastic bag! You should also be considerate of your neighbors when leaving your dog outside. **Barking dogs** can be a nuisance and excessive uncontrolled barking may result in issuance of a citation for disturbing the peace. All dogs must be properly licensed through Chester County.





Historic Resources

If your property is located within a Certified Historic District (Kimberton Village) or classified as an Historic Resource in East Pikeland Township, review and approval by the Historical Commission or HARB (Historical Architectural Review Board) is required for any construction, alteration or renovation project (including solar panels), in accordance with Article XVI of the East Pikeland Zoning Ordinance. Design standards for Kimberton Village and properties within the KR-Kimberton Retail zoning district are outlined in Ordinance No. 124.

Lawn Maintenance

Growth of noxious weeds, grass, plants and vegetation in excess of 12" is declared a public nuisance and is prohibited. Trees, natural meadows, cultivated flowers and gardens are excluded. If you have a corner property please make sure any tree limbs, shrubbery or other plantings are trimmed back so they do not create a visibility problem for motorists. Overgrown vegetation protruding into the street is also dangerous for pedestrians!

Yard Sales do not need permits. A few temporary lawn signs can be placed in the neighborhood or nearest intersection and **MUST** be removed immediately after the sale! Posting notices, advertisements, or other signs mounted or placed in any fashion upon a lamppost, electric light, telephone or other utility poles, piers or columns located on or along the public roads of the Township is **PROHIBITED**.

Tree Removal

In accordance with Section 404.7 of the East Pikeland Zoning Ordinance, no tree shall be cut or otherwise removed from any lands in the Township without a tree removal permit. This provision applies to every property, except for commercial nurseries, fruit orchards, and Christmas tree farms.

Under the following circumstances, a permit is **NOT** required; however, you **MUST** still provide documentation to the township with photos or arborist report as verification:

- Removal of trees from residential lots that are less than six (6) inch DBH
- Removal of trees which are dead or dying (except within a Zone 1 Riparian Buffer), diseased trees, trees which have suffered damage, or any tree whose angle of growth makes them a hazard to structures, roads, or human life.
- Removal of trees which appear to cause structural damage to buildings or foundations.

Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs that hold more than 24" of water require a Building and Electrical Permit. *Seasonal* swimming pools require a one-time Zoning Permit good for the life of the pool. Fences, gates and barriers are required for all pools. Here are a few pool safety tips to keep in mind for fun and safe summer:

Never swim alone! | Never leave children unattended! | Be attentive! Post rules ("no running, pushing, or dunking") and make sure gates are locked and the pool is covered when not in use!

