

IN

An INCOMMUNITY Magazine

Phoenixville Area

SPRING 2015
in-philly.com



PHYSICS TEAM REPRESENTS!

Phoenixville selected as the only U.S. high school to participate in the Physics World Cup



School District News
& Township News

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Special Section:
Home Improvement

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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 every 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

- **EAST PIKELAND BRIDGE UPDATE.** The Hares Hill Bridge and the Rapps Dam Covered Bridge each sustained damage in 2014. Both bridges are owned and maintained by PennDOT. The Township is aware that residents are frustrated by the delay in repairing these historic bridges – especially since the Rapps Dam Bridge has been closed since April 29, 2014. We are communicating regularly with PennDOT and encouraging them to make the East Pikeland bridges top priority. According to sources at PennDOT, a contract to repair the Rapps Dam Bridge will be awarded at the end of February with work to begin in the Spring. Once the Rapps Dam Bridge is completed, the wing walls at the Hares Hill Bridge will be repaired which will require the closing of the iron bridge for approximately four months beginning in the Fall. Visit our website for further updates.
- **LOCAL REAL ESTATE TAX REDUCED.** At their December 2014 public meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted to reduce local property taxes by 25%. The tax reduction, from .58 mills to .44 mills, is in effect for 2015. Chairman Ron Graham was quoted as saying, "The strong fiscal health of East Pikeland Township is such that we wish to take a step to reduce the tax burden on property owners, especially those in our community who wish to maintain their properties on a reduced income."
- **YARD WASTE RECYCLING CENTER... CHANGES ARE COMING.** The Township will be implementing new fees, operating hours and procedures at the Yard Waste Recycling Center this Spring. In April, we will begin charging fees for the loading of mulch and compost and another fee for landscaping contractors to dump their yard waste at the site. The hours for drop off will also be changed. (See next page for more information.)
- **MULCH & COMPOST.** Delivery of mulch or compost by the Public Works crew will begin April 6th. Cost of delivery will be \$50 for a truckload (approximately two and a half yards of material). Contact the township office to place an order. No orders will be taken prior to April 6th.
- **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.
- **TAX TIME.** Taxpayers with earned income in 2014 are required to file a tax return by April 15th. A fast and secure way to file your 2014 tax return is online at www.KeystoneCollects.com. If you have questions regarding local tax filing, call Keystone's Taxpayer Helpline at 1-888-328-0565.



EAST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP YARD WASTE RECYCLING CENTER



NEW Hours of Operation (Location A & B):

Monday through Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (April through November)
Locations A & B promptly close at the hours posted
Location A will no longer be open in the evening hours

MATERIALS ACCEPTED

Location A

Leaves & Grass Clippings

Location B

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

FEE SCHEDULE - CASH ONLY

Beginning April 6, 2015 there will be a **\$5 fee** charged for loading of mulch and compost into residential and commercial vehicles by Public Works crew.

Residents may load their own vehicles at no charge.

LOADING HOURS BY PUBLIC WORKS

WEEKDAYS 1 – 3 PM

SATURDAYS 9 AM – 1 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.

DELIVERY CHARGE FOR COMPOST or MULCH - \$50.00 per truckload
Taking Orders beginning April 6th - Call the Township (610) 933-1770

2015 TENTATIVE CHESTER COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

RESIDENTIAL ONLY

BUSINESSES AND CONTRACTORS WILL BE TURNED AWAY

**** NO ELECTRONICS WILL BE ACCEPTED ****

Please Call the Township for Residential E-Waste Recycling Locations

ALL EVENTS START AT **9:00 AM** AND CLOSE AT **3:00 PM SHARP**

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

CAT PICKERING CAMPUS

1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

OCTORARA HIGH SCHOOL

226 Highland Road, Atglen, PA 19310 *(Proof of residency may be required)*

SATURDAY, MAY 16

OWEN J. ROBERTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

COATESVILLE 9th-10th GRADE CENTER

1425 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320

(Stone wall entrance - Veteran's Drive - same entrance as CAT Brandywine – Route 30 across from Dairy Queen)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

125 Bell Tower Lane, Oxford, PA 19363 *(Proof of residency may be required)*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER

601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

NOT ACCEPTABLE HAZARDOUS WASTE

UNIDENTIFIED WASTE

EXPLOSIVES & AMMUNITION

APPLIANCES

INFECTIOUS OR MEDICAL WASTE

GAS CYLINDERS

AKLALINE BATTERIES

TIRES

LATEX PAINT

PROPANE TANKS

TRASH

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

PRESSURIZED CFCs & HCFCs

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

APPLIANCES WITH FREON

HELIUM TANKS

ASBESTOS

50 GALLON DRUMS

Maximum Amount Accepted - 25 Gallons or 220 Lbs. / No Metal Drums

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BOXES HOME TO RECYCLE AT THE CURB OR LOCAL DROP OFF

Go to www.chestercountyswa.org for additional disposal options

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

Co-Sponsored by
Schuylkill Township, Borough of Phoenixville, Charlestown Township and East Pikeland Township

Protect yourself from identity theft by shredding confidential and unwanted documents at this **FREE** community shred event.

Paper clips, staples, and report covers are okay but please **do not bring plastic, 3-ring binders, binder clips, metal or electronics of any kind.**

Date: Saturday May 2, 2015
Time: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. sharp
(or until truck is full)

Rain or Shine



Place: CCIU Technical College High School Campus
(formerly CAT Pickering Vo-Tech)
1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460

FOR RESIDENTS OF PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES ONLY

LIMIT OF 4 STANDARD FILE BOXES PER VEHICLE
NO COMMERCIAL SHREDDING WILL BE ACCEPTED

Call East Pikeland Township Office if you have any questions (610) 933-1770.





FRENCH CREEK TRAIL HIKES

Led by Sean McShane of the Park & Recreation Board.

Every Saturday February 28 through March 28, beginning at 9 AM. Participants should meet at the Rapps Dam Bridge trailhead.



Kimberton Park Pavilion

You can reserve the pavilion for your next party or picnic! The pavilion holds six 6-foot picnic tables which accommodates 35-40 people. Call the Township at **610.933.1770** for availability. Also available to rent are the tennis courts, basketball court, gazebo and roller hockey court.

The Park Facilities Application can be downloaded from our website: www.eastpikeland.org (Deposit and rental fees apply to all reservations)



FRENCH CREEK TRAIL SPRING CLEAN-UP

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Community Invited to Participate.

Volunteers to meet in the parking lot next to Rapps Dam Covered Bridge.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Township.

Volunteers will be trained to eradicate invasive species and will assist with litter removal.

Registration Not Required

Please bring the following, if able:

**Work Gloves • Heavy Shoes • Clippers • Shears • Shovels
Long Handled Pruners • Pole Saw • Pickaxe**



FRENCH CREEK TRAIL

With the opening of the second pedestrian bridge over the French Creek, the trail is now accessible from Rapps Dam Road to Hares Hill Road. The township continues to look at options for taking the trail beyond Hares Hill with a future goal of safe, pedestrian access into Kimberton Village. The trail is partially open from Rapps Dam Road towards Township Line Road and the plan is to have it completely open by the end of the summer. Come walk the trail, learn about the history of the Continental Powder Works from the wayside signage along the trail, and see the trail projects completed by local Eagle Scouts.

On Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the Park & Recreation Board, along with the "Friends of French Creek Trail", will be conducting a trail clean-up. Volunteers are welcome. Contact the township office if you or your organization is interested in participating.



Pedestrian bridge at Rapps Dam



Pedestrian bridge #2, closer to Hares Hill Road trailhead.

KIMBERTON'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Kimberton Park

Saturday, March 28 at 10:00 am

9:30 am - Pictures with the Easter Bunny
(please bring your own camera)

Children 2 and under - Meet at the Tennis Courts

Children 3 & 4 years old - Meet at Swing Set Area

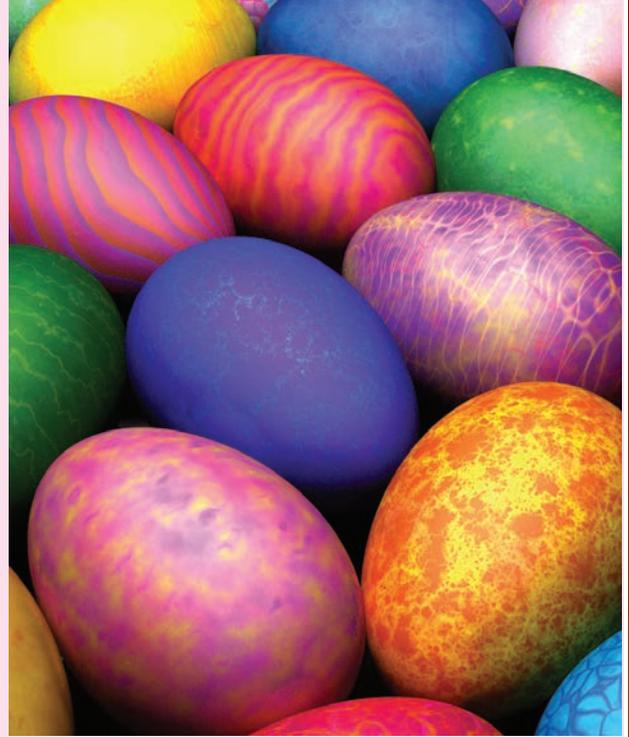
Children 5 -7 years old - Meet at Field Below Tennis Courts

Children 8-10 years old - Meet at the Pavilion

****One Prize Winner For Each Age Group****

Don't forget your basket!

Rain Date - Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 am



Amusement Park & Zoo Tickets

Save money and avoid waiting in long lines at the park or zoo!

Buy discount tickets at the Township Building. Supplies are limited. Please call 610-933-1770 to confirm availability.

CASH or CHECK only - No Refunds

Hershey Park | Dorney Park | Knoebels | Six Flags | Adventure Aquarium | Dutch Wonderland | Philadelphia Zoo



Regal Entertainment Super Saver Movie Tickets

\$8.00 per ticket - Cash or Check Only

Tickets are redeemable at Regal Entertainment Group theatres nationwide, including Regal Cinemas, United Artist Theatres and Edwards Theatres. Tickets are available at the Township Office year-round and do not expire.

Visit www.REGmovies.com for participating theatres & show times.





The A-B-C's of Building, Code Enforcement & Zoning

By Kisha Tyler, Zoning Officer

Accessory Uses, Buildings & 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.

Advertising Signs. East Pikeland Township has very strict sign regulations! Small portable signs used to advertise businesses and services (other than grand opening) are **not permitted**. We understand that these small signs are economical for business promotion unfortunately they are not allowed. **Contractor** signs are

permitted on the premises where the work is occurring and must be removed upon project completion. **Real Estate** signs are permitted on the site to be sold, rented, or developed. No off-site real estate directional signs are permitted. By federal law, **Political** signs and those of **Religious Ideology** are exempt. **Special Event** signs are limited to four (4) off-site, two weeks prior to the event and must be removed by the day after the event ends. Section 1900 of the Zoning Ordinance specifically details the sign regulations and is available online.

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.

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 is allowed as long as it is used for the intended purpose.** Controlled burning

for Farm Use properties over 5-acres is permitted for agricultural purposes 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 cannot run at large; they must be accompanied by and under the control of the owner while on a public street or roadway, any other public land, or upon property of another person other than the owner. Be considerate of your neighbors when leaving your dog outside. **Barking dogs** can become a nuisance and may result in a fine. Be courteous: don't forget the "pooper scooper" and plastic bag! And remember, all dogs must be properly licensed through Chester County.

Garage and 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.**

Home Based Businesses are a permitted use in all zoning districts within the Township; however, there are certain regulations that apply. These businesses may include but are not limited to the professional practice of law, engineering, architecture, accounting, planning, real estate and insurance; personal services; cottage industries including crafts and homemade products. All home occupations shall be clearly incidental and secondary to the principal residential use. No person other than family members residing in the dwelling may be employees. There shall be no signs, advertising, lights or other indication showing evidence of the existence or conduct of a home occupation. All activity associated with the business shall occur inside the dwelling. For specific guidelines refer to Section 1806 of the Zoning Ordinance.

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!

Property Maintenance. East Pikeland's Property Maintenance Code requires an owner to maintain their property in a clean, sanitary and safe condition. The structure should be kept in good repair and the premises free from the accumulation of trash and rubbish (junk). Vacant land should be maintained and vacant structures adequately secured so they don't become an eyesore or attract illegal dumping. It is also the responsibility of the property owner to remove markings, carvings or graffiti from any structure or building.

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!

Building Permit Requirements. Building and zoning permits are required for almost every type of construction and renovation project. If the project is structural or

involves plumbing, electrical or mechanical work, you must obtain a permit: this includes new home construction, additions, renovations, detached garage, decks, swimming pools, etc. Accessory structures such as sheds, gazebos, pergolas, and even driveway expansions also require a permit. No permit is required for routine maintenance projects such as re-shingling a roof, and replacing windows, doors or siding. Every commercial construction and/or renovation project requires a permit. Work involving electrical and plumbing also requires a permit. Permit processing takes approximately 3 weeks so plan accordingly.



Community Comes Together to Save a Life

– Chief James Franciscus

It was a typical Monday in East Pikeland Township. People were going to and coming from work, kids on their way to school, people stopping at the local WAWA to get their morning coffee. But this Monday, December 8, 2014, was not typical for everyone. Some people will remember this day for the rest of their life, especially Gary Moyer and his family.

It was about 1:00 P.M. on Monday December 8, 2014, Officer Pat Ehmann was assigned to patrol the Township for the day shift. He received a radio call for an unknown medical emergency at the intersection of Kimberton Road and Pothouse Road. Officer Ehmann was close by and rushed to the scene. When he arrived he saw several people surrounding a blue station wagon on the shoulder of the road. When he went to investigate he saw the people removing the driver, Gary Moyer, from the car and laying his body on the ground. Two women who were nurses started to perform C.P.R. Officer Ehmann retrieved the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) from the patrol car and attached the paddles to Moyer's chest. The AED commanded a shock and the nurses hit the shock button as directed. The West End Ambulance arrived and transported Moyer to the Phoenixville Hospital.

Doctors at the hospital said "if it had not been for the care he received along the roadway, Mr. Moyer may not be alive today." This is a great example of a community coming together. This is what makes me so proud to be the Chief of Police in East Pikeland Township. All the people involved - Charles Schuepfer, Gayle Exley, Nichole Roque, Lysa Monteiro, Monica and Robert Davis were recognized at a Township meeting on February 3, 2015.



From left to right: Robert Davis, Monica Davis, Gary Moyer, Gayle Exley, Lysa Monteiro, and Officer Pat Ehmann.



In Memorium



December 17th marked the passing of Retired Police Chief Kirby L. Bloomquist.

Chief Bloomquist proudly served the Township for 26 years as a member of the Police Department. Chief Bloomquist was a graduate of Phoenixville High School, class of 1970. He then attended and graduated from the PA State Police Academy in Hershey, PA and began his career in Phoenixville as a police dispatcher, before joining the East Pikeland Township Police in 1975. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, and in 1993 he was promoted to Chief of Police until his retirement in 2001. A memorial service was held at the Kimberton Fire Company Covered Bridge Room where Chief Bloomquist was remembered fondly by friends and family as an honorable and great friend. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



Eagle Scout Recognition

At the November 2014 Board of Supervisors meeting two new Eagle Scouts were recognized for their contributions to East Pikeland Township. Shane Kramer (middle) constructed a 17' walking bridge at the Snyder's Mill trailhead of the French Creek Trail. Ryan Conway (second from right) constructed a bulletin board and bluebird houses for Kimberton Park. Both Scouts represent Troop 158 in Kimberton.



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

We are requesting that you "Friend us" on Facebook and encourage you to use social media to communicate with one another about things going on in the community. This is our effort to promote a healthy relationship between the community and the Police Department.