



REPORT

Winter/Spring 2009

Office Mailing Address
 110 Bell Tavern Road
 Downingtown, PA 19335
 Phone: 610-269-1989
 Fax: 610-269-9183

Board of Supervisors

Edward J. Dymek
 Donald D. Maheu
 Joel F. Swisher

Secretary/Manager

Barbara Kelly

Director of Finance

Bonnie Lucy

Planning Commission

Donald Ash
 David Bolger
 Tony DeLuca
 Inge Forlenza
 Stephen Pizzi
 Paul Socoroso
 Bruce Taylor

Zoning Hearing Board

Shawn Dowds
 Dyanne Delaney
 William van Roden
 Mary Simme
 Michael McFarland
 John Kiefel, Solicitor

Recreation Board

Loretta Kukles
 Felicia Meakim
 Susan Shrum
 Steve Costa
 Tawnya McCain
 Perry Stathacos
 Amanda Ores
 Kathleen Yoder-Schlosser
 Vacant

Township Solicitor

Landis & Setzler Associates

Township Engineer

Buchart-Horn, Inc.

Building/Zoning Officer

Brian Gallagher

Permits Clerk

Melba Forcine

Fire Marshal

Chris Obenchain

Budget 2009

There are many factors that have to be considered when preparing the budget for 2009. The housing slump and job losses have lead to a decline in the real estate transfer tax, earned income tax and emergency services tax. All are significant revenue producers for the township. Meanwhile the cost of services has increased for police, fire, and ambulance as well other services that the Township provides. The cost of petroleum based products such as asphalt has almost doubled as has the cost of road salt. These are needed commodities to improve and maintain the township roads. Another factor is the cost of maintaining the park and updating the water feature to a more efficient system that the children may enjoy this summer. With the growth of the Township over the past 8 years, the Township staff has increased to five full time employees. They are the manager, director of finance, assistant codes clerk, building & zoning officer and fire marshal. Some of the cost of the codes and fire marshal departments are offset though fees for building permits and inspections.

There hasn't been a Township tax increase since 1996. There were decreases in Township taxes for the years of 1998, 1999, and 2000 which remained through 2008. First of all you must understand that all those taxes you pay DO NOT all go to the Township. Only 4% of your taxes are paid to Township. (Refer to chart on page 2).

The East Caln Township Board of Supervisors, in adopting the 2009 Budget, had to impose an increase in property tax. The tax rate is 1.25 mills per each \$1,000 of assessed property valuation. For a home assessed at \$200,000 the tax would be \$250.00.

General Fund Budget 2009

Revenue		Expenditures	
310 Taxes	\$1,516,357	400 General Gov't	\$ 509,982
320 Licenses & Permits	76,100	410 Public Safety	749,648
330 Fines	34,300	420 Refuse	355,237
340 Interest & Rents	16,000	430 Streets	161,829
350 Intergovernmental	153,700	440 Stormwater Mngt.	2,500
360 Charges fir Services	153,700	450 Parks & Recreation	70,219
380 Misc. Revenu.....	34,436	480 Insurances	17,365
Totals	\$1,975,619	490 Other	100,000
		Totals	\$1,966,780

Sewer Fund

Sewer System Revenue\$602,716 Sewer System Operations \$578,385

Christmas Tree Collection

The Township will connect Christmas Trees on **TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, January 13 & 14. Snow Days will be January 20 & 21.**

Trees must be placed at curbside by 6:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 13. (Based on the amount of trees there may be only one pick up). Snow date **ONLY** if it is snowing on the 13th then please place them at curbside on the 20th.

The Trees will be chipped and used for mulch in Bell Tavern Park.

PLEASE NOTE: All lights and decorations MUST be removed or the trees will not be collected!!

Land Development

- **River Station Project** (located at Rt. 322 and the western end of Boot Road) The applicant has been approved for a conditional use to develop the tract to the west of Pro Signs. It will allow the property, which is currently in the I-1 Zoning District, to develop it with multiple buildings of office space and retail showrooms. The Board has set specific conditions that must be met prior to the actual development of the property.
- **Tall Trees Development** (on Rt. 113) is still moving along with their construction of the homes. The emergency access driveway was inspected and found to be inadequate and must be brought into compliance before further construction may continue.
- **Downingtown Quarry Associates** (this parcel is located at the northeast corner of Quarry Rd at Lancaster Avenue) Development plans have received preliminary conditional approval. The site covers 17.4 acres and is scheduled to have two restaurants, a bank, a coffee shop and an additional structure. Along with this project will be the long needed highway improvements on Business Rt. 30 and Quarry Rd. This is a joint project that will be completed with funding from the Developer and Township. PennDOT will contribute the rough surface paving. There is to be a designated right turn lane onto Bell Tavern Road heading west and a dedicated right turn lane onto Quarry Rd. heading east. With the improvements the present traffic bottle neck should be eased. The work on the highway improvements are slated to start in the spring of 2009. Special Thanks are extended to the owners of Brandywine Square and Philip Bradley Antiques for their granting the right of way for the two much needed turning lanes.
- **Kardon Park-** Progressive Ventures, LLC – This parcel is located just off the southeastern side of Norwood Rd near Wallace Avenue. The tract is proposed to be an upscale townhouse development. The developer is currently working with the Township Planning Commission and a land planner to review the R-4 zoning as it can be applied to the area to allow a lower density type of development.
- **Williams/Transco** - There are still unresolved issues with the replacement of the Township sewer line along McIlvain Drive. Due to lack of response from Williams/Transco a letter was forwarded to FERC advising them of the situation. Many of the residents still have a lot of concerns and are still in negotiations with Williams/Transco and continuing to send information to FERC to resolve their individual needs. Many thanks go out to the Legislators that have taken it upon themselves to help the Township and residents involved: U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, Congressman James Gerlach, Senator Andy Dinniman, Senator Robert Casey, and Representative Curt Schroder.

TRASH & RECYCLING NEWS

TOTERS: Make a record of your trash receptacle number. It is now required to report a lost, stolen, or a repair order. You MUST have the number prior to calling the Township or call the hauler directly at 610-942-2707.

BULK TRASH PICK UP IS THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH.



RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:

Please do your part in preserving our natural resources by recycling:

- Placing newsprint, junk mail, and all clean paper in a brown grocery bag. Keep cardboard separate.
- Co-Mingle glass, aluminum, metals, and plastics 1 & 2.
- **Remember that recycling is mandatory for both residential and commercial properties within the township.**

News From the Recreation Board

The Recreation Board had a very exciting 2008. They hosted the annual Egg Hunt, Kids Day at Lowe's, Kid's Day in the Park and 2 summer movies. They even had live bands performing before one of the movies. It was great to see some familiar faces at the events, as well as many new faces.

The 2009 Calendar of events will be announced in January, so stayed tuned for more fun activities from the Recreation board.

There is one seat on the board, so if you are an energetic person who is interested in volunteering in the community, please let us know.

If you do not want a board seat but are interested in volunteering at any of the events, please contact Barb at 610-269-1989.

CHECK THE WEBSITE: www.eastcalnrec.com for dates on the upcoming events. Don't forget the Easter Egg Hunt!!!!

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF YOUR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

- Kathleen-Yoder Schlosser has been appointed as a member of the Parks & Recreation Board. Welcome aboard.
- Beau Crowding - Thank you for maintaining the Township website again this year.
- Steve DiLuigi - Thank you for maintaining the Park & Recreation website.
- A special Thank You from the Board of Supervisors for all those who have volunteered to serve on all the Boards and Commissions for the year to come.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

East Caln Township has a web page at www.eastcalntownship.com

E-mail may be sent to the following addresses:

Board of Supervisors:

supervisors@eastcalntownship.com

Township Manager:

manager@eastcalntownship.com

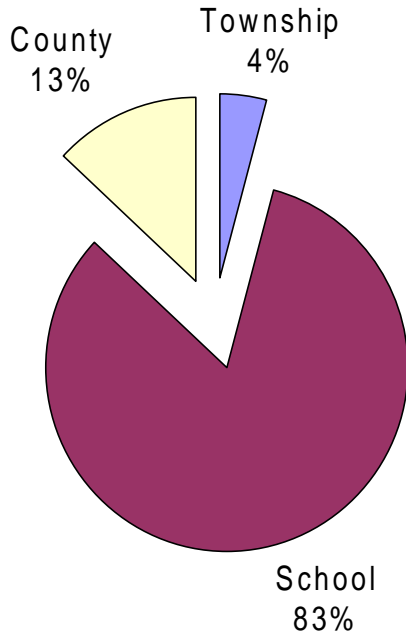
Administrative Assistant

admin@eastcalntownship.com

Building & Zoning Officer

codes@eastcalntownship.com

Tax Allocations



Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium
Looking for something to do this winter
check out the DARC website:
www.darcinfo.com

DARC has exciting activities and programs for all ages during our winter season such as:

Bus Trips: Trips include trips to the Broadway show *Wicked*, New York on Your Own Shopping trips, and St. Michael's Maryland.

Discount Ski Tickets: To Bear Creek, Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Camelback Ski Area, Elk Mountain, Seven Springs, Snow Mountain and Shawnee Mountain.

Discount Movie Tickets: Are \$7.00 and are honored at all Regal Entertainment Group Locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times..

Entertainment Books: They are full of great values for activities in Chester, Montgomery, and Delaware Counties, as well as Philadelphia. Fine dining, golf, casual dining, merchandise, services, amusement attractions and more! Valid thru November of 2009 and are **\$25**.

2009 Dog License

What Are Pennsylvania Dog Laws

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are under the direction of the County Treasurer
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under seven weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- You must have a current kennel license if you operate a facility that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away or transfers a total of 26 or more dogs in any one calendar year.
- Dogs and cats 3 months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination. It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

Acme Receipts

Acme Receipts Benefit Senior Center – Did you know you can help the Downingtown Senior Center just by saving your ACME sales slips? The center will receive 1% total receipts excluding taxes. These can be dropped off at the center or the Township Building.

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Emergency: Police, Fire, Ambulance – Dial 911

Police Non-Emergency after midnight and weekends (610) 383-7000 Chester County Police Radio.

Police Administration: 8:00 a.m. to Midnight Monday - Friday (610) 269-0263.

IF YOU CALL 911 BY MISTAKE, DON'T HANG UP! WHEN SOMEONE ANSWERS THE PHONE, TELL THEM YOU MADE A MISTAKE.

If you have an emergency you will need to give your name, street address, telephone number and most important the municipality in which you live which is: EAST CALN TOWNSHIP!

For your information: There is also a Caln Township and West Caln Township, so be very specific in stating your location.

NEW FOR 2009

The pavillions at the Park will now be reserved.

A fee of \$40 will be charged for the use.

A separate refundable deposit of \$40 shall be returned after completion of inspection of pavillions.

SNOW & WINTER TIPS:

Parking Along Streets: Please remember to remove all vehicles from the public roads, cartways and shoulders of the road so there can be a safe clearing of the snow from the roadways.

Mail boxes: Be sure your mailbox is installed properly and securely to avoid damage from snowplows. Absolutely no part of the mailbox should extend over the curb or edge of driveway. It is township policy not to replace mailboxes that are damaged during the normal course of cleaning the road.

Driveways: Remember to shovel snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the road) and clear the area immediately to your left of your driveway. This will eliminate some of the snow being pushed back into the driveway and will assist the snow plow operators.

Fire Hydrants & Storm Water Drains: Remember to clear the snow and ice from around the fire hydrants. It is CRITICAL that the firefighters have safe access to the hydrants in the event of emergency. Clearing the snow from the storm water inlet grates will enable the drainage from the melted snow to flow into the drainage system. It will then be channeled to the proper location rather than sheeting across or pooling on the roadways and freezing as temperature drops overnight thus creating icing conditions which are hazardous to vehicle and pedestrian travel.

Report Ice Conditions . Nothing is more dangerous than to drive on ice. If you see an intersection or road that has ice build up call the Township. The contractor or the State will clear the roads. Safe roads are the best roads.

Calendar – 2009

JANUARY

5	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
7	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
12	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
13 & 14	Christmas Tree Pick ups	6:00 a.m.
15	Bulk Trash.....	5:00 p.m.
20 & 21	SNOW DATE Christmas Tree Picks ups	6:00 a.m.
21	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
26	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

2	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
4	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
4	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
18	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
19	Bulk Trash Pick-up	5:00 a.m.
23	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.

MARCH

2	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
4	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
4	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
17	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.
18	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
19	Bulk Trash	5:00 a.m.

APRIL

1	Board of Supervisors	1:30 p.m.
1	Parks & Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
6	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
15	Board of Supervisors	7:00 p.m.
16	Bulk Trash Pick-up	6:00 a.m.
20	Zoning Hearing Board (as required)	7:30 p.m.

NOTE: Trash and Recycling is collected on scheduled days including holidays.

All Meetings are held in the Township Building Located at 110 Bell Tavern Road Just north of Lancaster Avenue. Please contact the Township Office, 610-269-1989 for any further details.

Township Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

**East Caln Township
110 Bell Tavern Road
Downingtown, PA 19335**

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 54
Downingtown, PA
19335

The Team behind the scene building safety into your Home

A message from the Codes Department:

Most people take it for granted that when they buy a home, rent an apartment, send their children to school, enter the grocery store, a mall, office building or public building that the structure is safe.

Safe buildings don't happen by chance or by the builder, they happen by the building inspectors, code enforcement officers, zoning officials and fire marshals ensuring that the structures are built safe; according to the International Building Code and inspected frequently.

While building codes date back to the Code of Hammurabi in 1760 BC, East Caln Township has had documented Building Codes since the late 1950's. The *Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement* doesn't see houses or buildings quite the way your average person sees them. The rickety deck someone built, you know, the one clinging to the back of the house by some rusty nails? The homes with electrical hazards left over from the do-it-yourself wiring jobs. The exit from the fabric store blocked by skids of stock, the emergency lights in a restaurant that does not operate more potential disasters. These are a small sampling of the hazards the inspection staff deal with on a daily basis in the quest to make sure the buildings of East Caln are as safe as possible.

The *Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement* is a multi-disciplined department with three full-time employees and a contract engineer. The Office handles all the applications, plans reviews and site inspections. Since 1996 the inspection force has been Nationally Certified in their fields. The National Certification is similar to an Associates Degree. Every three years they must complete 45 Continuing Education Units in their fields to maintain their certifications. The staff works to make sure all plans submitted to the office adhere to strict building codes. How strict? The code is International, so it is basic and broad based...it's in black and white. No *Office* ever sets out to give builders or homeowners a hard time, but codes must be adhered to, the way they are written. When building a new home, each unit is inspected no less than 11 times, frequently more often if there are concerns. On commercial projects, most are inspected daily to ensure compliance and site safety.

Here's a tip: 'Before you start any building project around the house, take a moment and call the Township to ascertain if a permit is required'. It's a whole lot less impacting to do it right the first time.

As a homeowner, here are 5 ways building codes protect you and your family.

1. Scald protection: building codes require that showers be equipped with anti-scald valves to prevent injury.
2. Ground Fault Interrupters (GFI's): build codes require GFI's in the kitchen, bath, outdoors and anywhere you might be exposed to a wet environment. The GFI's turn off the power to the outlet BEFORE someone can be harmed by an electrical shock.
3. Emergency Escape & Rescue Openings: since the year 2000, building codes require all basements and

bedrooms below grade to have at least one emergency escape and rescue opening, directly to the outside.

4. Stair rails and Guard Rail Systems: building codes address the size and spacing of stair railings to prevent children from falling through or getting their head stuck. They also protect the general public by regulating the height of the stair rail and guard rail.
5. Smoke Detectors: since 1970 all homes are required to have smoke detectors. Since 1997 the building code requires a 110v/Battery back-up, inter-wired smoke detector on each level of the home, to include the basement, and in EACH bedroom.

Who needs Building Codes?

We all do — whether in our homes, offices, schools, stores, factories or places of entertainment. We rely on the safety of the structures that surround us in our every day living. The public need for protection from disaster due to fire, structural collapse and general deterioration underscores the need for modern codes and their administration.

How reliable are they?

The majority of the aspects of building construction — electrical wiring; heating; structural components; mechanical systems and sanitary facilities all represent a potential hazard to building occupants and their users. Building codes provide safeguards. Although no code can eliminate all risks, reducing or eliminating risks is the ultimate goal..

What is a building code?

Practically, it is the government's official statement on building safety. Technically, it is a compendium of minimum safety standards arranged in a systematic manner for easy reference. It embraces all aspects of building construction — structural, fire, plumbing, electrical and mechanical.

What if I want to do a building project myself?

The *Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement* has a number of pamphlets and brochures explaining how to obtain a permit and design a safe construction project.

Why should minimum safety codes apply to my own house?

For several reasons:

- For your personal safety; and that of your family and the guests you invite into your home.
- To ensure the economic well-being of the community by reducing potential spread of fire and disease.
- To protect future home purchasers who deserve reasonable assurance that the home they will buy is safe.

* * *

For additional information, please feel free to visit the Township Web Site at www.eastcalntownship.com or contact the Office of Life Safety & Code Enforcement at 610-269-7326.

East Caln Township Wants to Keep You Safe and Warm This Winter

Message from the Fire Marshal

As the temperature outside drops, families all over Chester County take to the indoors to keep safe and warm. What they may not realize is that turning up the heat can increase the risk of home heating fires. Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

A joint survey done by the American Red Cross and the National Fire Protection Association shows most Americans are concerned about home heating costs and that [many will use alternative heating sources](#) this winter.

Facts & Figures

In 2005, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 civilian deaths, 1,550 civilian injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage.

In 2005 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths. Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005.

Excluding small confined fires, heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, is by far the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and home heating fire deaths (53%).

East Caln Township and the NFPA recommend some simple home heating safety tips, so residents can help keep our community safe and warm this winter.

Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.

Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.

Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.

Use a sturdy fireplace screen.

Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

Never use an oven to heat your home.

For fuel assistance, contact the National Fuel Funds Network at 1-202-824-0660.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SPLIT PRECINCT 055 – EAST CALN TOWNSHIP

From Jerry Waters, Judge of Elections

The November 4th Presidential election had good news for voters of East Caln Township as 2086 of the 2859 registered voters had voted for a record 73% turnout. The bad news was some waited as long as two hours to cast their ballots.

The volume has exceeded the capability of the township facility and has mandated an application to Chester County Voter Services to split the Township into two precincts. The project will take at least one year to complete.

There is a lot of work to organize and accomplish this. Evaluating and obtaining approval for a new polling place located within the new precinct: Selection of a new election board (poll workers) who must reside in the precinct: Finally to insure a fair and equitable geographical and demographic balance for the precincts.

Therefore, several people are needed to accomplish this as soon as possible. If interested in helping: Contact Jerry Waters, Judge of Elections, at 610 269-7327 leave message.

I would like to recognize the dedicated poll workers of East Caln for the great job and hard work they did with this election: Sue Shrum, Jack Utz, Jane Deford, Mary Nagy, Chuck Delone, Amy Kelly, Mike Larsen, Cami Mcclatchy, Joanna Steinman, and Julienne Mbuy.