

Plumstead Township



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A New Year for the Board of Supervisors

At the Board of Supervisors Re-Organization meeting, held on January 4th, two Supervisors were sworn in: Dan Hilferty (re-elected, left) and Brian Trymbiski (newly elected, right). Both Supervisors will serve a six year term. Mr. Hilferty will also serve as the liaison with the Veterans Ad Hoc Committee and the emergency services providers. Mr. Trymbiski will serve on the Police Pension Committee and as the liaison to the Planning Commission.



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Stroudsburg
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Plumstead Township Information

Contact Information

Township Office

5186 Stump Road, P.O. Box 387, Plumsteadville, PA 18949-0387
Telephone: 215-766-8914 • Fax: 215-766-9831 • www.plumstead.org
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Police Department

Office: 215-766-8741 • Dispatch: 215-766-8740 • Fax: 215-766-8509
For EMERGENCY Dial 911
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM or by appointment

Floyd S. Bryan Public Works Center

Office: 215-766-0189 • Fax: 215-766-1439
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Tax Collector

6162 German Road, P.O. Box 433, Plumstead, PA 18949
Telephone: 215-766-3785 • Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Water Department

Billing Questions: 215-766-0189 • Repairs & Maintenance: 215-766-0189

For after hours service disruption or non-emergency issues of concern, please contact Police Dispatch at 215-766-8740. Identify yourself as a Plumstead Township Water Department customer. The dispatcher will contact the on-duty officer, who will then contact the on-call Public Works personnel. For Police, Fire or Medical Emergencies: 911

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Carolyn McCreary
Assistant to Township Manager: Debbie DiAngelo
Director of Public Works: Alan Bleam
Administrative Assistant & Water Billing: Pam Gravel
Chief of Police: Duane Hasenauer
Police Dept. Administrative Assistant: Linda Barratt
Explorers: Jen Schmitt
Police Clerk: Steve Meredith
Finance: Jane Faunce
Accounts Receivable: Virginia Bowling
Code Enforcement: Keystone Municipal Services
Zoning Administrative Assistant
Receptionist: Maria Strycharski

Board of Supervisors

Dan Hilferty, **Chair**
Stacey Mulholland, **Vice Chair**
Brian Trymbiski, **Treasurer**
Nick Lykon, **Secretary**
Frank Froio, **Asst Secretary/
Treasurer**

Meetings

The **Board of Supervisors'** meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Work sessions are held on the last Thursday of the month, also at 7:30 PM.

The **Planning Commission** meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

The **Zoning Hearing Board** meets at the call of the Chairman

The **Environmental Advisory Council** meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, January -April. The second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, May-December.

All Meetings are at the Township Building

TOWNSHIP LAUNCHES IMPROVED WEBSITE

In January the Township unveiled its new website with a variety of improvements. The website has been designed by NA Studios as a "responsive" website, and will automatically re-proportion itself to fit into all screen sizes including mobile phones, tablets, and desktop computers. Some of the improvements are listed on the right.

- The Google Custom Search feature has been designed into the menu system, which can now be accessed on ANY page of the website.
- Four mini-banners were included on the home-page which allow residents "quick access" to some of the most popular features of the website
- Both the animated home-page banners and mini-banners are touch-swipe friendly for mobile devices
- Main Township phone number is programmed with 1-click auto-dialing features for mobile phones
- New contact form added to website allowing residents multiple ways of communication with the Township.
- A custom animated weather widget with 4-day forecast was added to home-page.
- Social links to the Township Facebook page and Twitter account were placed at both the top and bottom of website for quick access.
- New flexible menu system has been simplified to make navigation faster.
- All table layouts for contact information and department meeting dates/ minutes were re-designed for easier viewing
- Directions Pages now includes interactive maps.
- New Finance/Taxes section was added for important information and relative documents.
- Master Forms & Documents section was created keeping all information in one location.



The hi-definition photo gallery of images around the Township was donated by the staff at NA Studios, and we thank them for their generosity, as well as their enthusiasm for our project.



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Joseph D. Ferrara, M.D.
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Office Services

- Newborn / infant care in and out of the hospital
- Pediatric, adolescent and geriatric care
- Preventive / Wellness care
- Cancer screening
- Office Gynecology including Pap smears and contraception
- Minor Skin Surgery and repair
- Allergy Shots
- Immunizations
- Counseling
- Special Diagnostic testing such as EKGs, basic labs tests, audiometry and allergy testing
- Patient Portal for 24/7 access to your health information

Office Hours By Appointment

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American Red Cross

URGENT NEED FOR BLOOD DONORS – GIVE NOW!

Blood Drive: Plumstead Township
Municipal Building
Date: *Wednesday, April 27, 2016*
Where: 5186 Stump Road
Time: 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Sign up: www.redcrossblood.org (Enter Sponsor Code: 0222679)

Sign up: Nancy.taylor@redcross.org

Call: American Red Cross 1-(800)-Red Cross / 1-(800)733-2767

Register online or Walk-ins welcome (Appointment Preferred)

Why Donate?

- National and local blood supplies are monitored closely to ensure we can provide blood where and when it is needed
- There is a critical need for blood donors now!
- Blood donations are down 10 percent across the country with 50,000 fewer pints of blood than expected (almost 1/2 amount readily available blood is inventory – compared to last year)
- All types are needed, but type O negative donors can make the difference between an adequate blood supply and a shortage
- 1 pint of blood can save 3 lives
- Donation only takes approx. 1 hour out of your day (Incl. paperwork & donation of one pint of blood)
- The Plasma from your donation is replaced within 24 hours

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT BALANCED BUDGET AND HOLD THE LINE ON REAL ESTATE TAXES



At their final business meeting of 2015 the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the 2016 budget with no tax increase. The current tax rate of 13.94 mills represents 9% of a resident's total real estate tax bill and provides funding for general services including Police, Public Works, Administration, Code Enforcement and Parks & Recreation. It also pays for the annual debt service associated with the voter-approved open space referendums from past years, and annual support of the Township's two volunteer fire companies and its ambulance squad.

Included in the budget are a variety of road projects including reconstruction on Applebutter and Groveland Roads, resurfacing in the North Branch subdivision and in-house paving of Silo Hill, Blueberry and a portion of Groveland Road.

Improvements are also budgeted for the Public Works building, which while aging remains functional. They include replacing the garage floor, replacing the exterior doors, insulating the building and constructing an addition to the pole building which houses equipment. The cost of these improvements is manageable in comparison to the cost of a new building.

Hanusey Park will benefit from foul ball protection netting at the baseball field closest to the community building, a backstop extension and some field and fence improvements. A well on adjacent Township land will be developed as a source for irrigating the sportsfields to ensure their viability in the event of limited rainfall.

Money has also been allocated for trails in the Township and a streambank restoration project in the Summer Meadow Subdivision.

EAC TREE PLANTING - SAVE THE DATE

The Environmental Advisory Council will be holding its next tree-planting event in honor of Arbor Day in April at the maintenance building at Hanusey Park. The date and time will be announced sometime in March. Please check the Township's Facebook page and website for the forthcoming details.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES IN PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP!

Loftus Construction

5049 Swamp Rd, Ste 305, Fountainville PA 18923

Michael's Home Creations, Inc. (Home Décor)

5890 Easton Rd, Bldg 1, Plumsteadville, PA 18949

Orchid Day Spa (New Owner)

807 N. Easton Rd, Ste 102, Doylestown

Dunkin Donuts

5790 Easton Rd, Plumsteadville, PA 18949

Precision Auto & Tire LLC

1019 N. Easton Rd, Doylestown, PA 18902

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank everyone who generously participated in our Second Annual Giving Tree. People donated hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves and helped decorate the tree in the lobby of the Township building.

Thank you to everyone who brought in pajamas for the PJs for Kids Program. Because of your generosity we were able to deliver two large bags of pajamas.

All items were delivered to Bucks County Children and Youth for distribution.

Finally, thank you to everyone who continuously kept the box for the local food pantry filled. Several calls were made during the holiday season to have the contents picked up, so the box could be filled again.



SAVE THE DATE

- Egg Stuffing Event @ Hanusey Park 2/27/16
- Annual Egg Hunt @ Hanusey Park 3/13/16
- Discover Plumstead (Scavenger Hunt) Spring
- EAC – Tire Recycle Spring
- Blaze of Glory 5K run 3/19/16
(Formally Great Grizzly Run)
- EAC – Arbor Day (Tree Planting) April
- Blood Drive (at Township building) 4/27/16
- Adult Volleyball Summer
- Kickball League Fall
- My Place Smoked Meats 8/20/16
- 13th Annual Sportsman Show
(sponsors PPVFC)

FERAL CATS



For years we have had uncontrolled feral cat populations in our local communities. Feral cats are legally domestic cats that have either returned to the outdoors, or they were born outdoors. They are typically not aggressive to humans and will go out of their way to avoid us. Feral cats associate with other cats, including indoor-outdoor house pets. Cats are great hunters and scavengers and are generally able to survive on their own. But, as with most feral animals, their lifespan is decreased due to the inherent dangers of living outdoors. If it's not coyote and fox, it's Chevys and Fords, or even man himself.

Through vaccination, safe living conditions and veterinary care most domestic cats live long, happy lives, often into their teens and twenties. Feral cats, however, are subject to disease, illness and injuries. Female cats get bred over and over producing litter after litter. Males fight for territory and inflict bite wounds on each other that can result in abscesses and possibly death. In nature population control is ruthless. The strong expel the weak from their territories and the weak eventually starve to death or are killed.

When a female has great nutrition you will see the litter size increase. The more food, the greater fertility. Feeding feral cats, though it might seem like the kind thing to do, really just makes the problem worse. It increases the number of unwanted cats and kittens and decreases the resources available to the cats in the colony. Feeding feral cats also draws in skunks and raccoons which increases the chance for rabies infection and bite wounds, not only for the cats but also the people in contact with them. Too many times people have tried to tame a feral only to get bitten or scratched. Pennsylvania is the number one state in the country for domestic cat rabies and the only way to test an animal for rabies is to decapitate it and examine its brain. Many a well-meaning person has given a cat a death sentence because they got bitten trying to tame it. Feral cats can also carry Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus which can be passed to pet cats.

So, what can we do about feral cats? While cats are protected under the law, it is sadly very common for communities to utilize culling to try and manage populations of unwanted feral cats. Culling is ineffective, expensive and almost always inhumane. If you kill the feral cats, more will come to fill the vacuum and start a new colony. By state law a veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician must be used to euthanize any domestic cat. It is illegal for pest control to kill a cat like wildlife species, a fact unknown by many municipalities. Law enforcement may only shoot a cat if there is a clear and imminent danger. Municipalities are better off seeking the assistance of humane organizations in combination with appropriate ordinances that monitor feral cat feeders to ensure that they are neutering and vaccinating the cats in their care.

A widely accepted management practice is called Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR). Cats are trapped in humane traps, neutered and given a rabies vaccine. During surgery the left ear is tipped (the tip is cut flat). The tipped ear lets future trappers know that this cat is already neutered and inoculated and can be released. By relocating these cats back in the area where they originated they keep other ferals away and no longer increase the population.

We cannot completely solve the feral cat problem, but we can certainly work together to manage the situation more effectively. There will always be cats out there, but we can lessen the impact by TNR and feeding only supervised and vetted feral cats.

The organizations listed below have traps to loan, expert advice and funding to offset the cost feral cat spay/neuter.

Animal LifeLine Warrington PA 215-343-5050 www.animallifelinepa.org

Stray Cat Blues Colmar PA 215-631-1851 www.straycatblues.org

No Nonsense Neutering - <http://www.nnnlv.org> 866.820.2510

Bucks County SPCA - <http://www.bcpspa.org> 215-794-7425

Animal Alliance. www.animalalliancenj.org. tel:(609)818-1952

Submitted by: Dr. Karen Detweiler - MOM's Vet

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HEROES

Come and Participate in the Blaze of Glory 5k and First Alarm Fun Run!

Formally known as the Great Grizzly Run, the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company will celebrate its 10th year of hosting this run event with the newly named Blaze of Glory 5k and First Alarm Fun Run on Saturday, March 19 2016 at the Plumsteadville Firehouse on Stump Road. All proceeds will go to support our local heroes, the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company. As the first race in the Bucks 5k Series (www.bucks5kseries.com) this run is one of the biggest community events in the Plumstead area and everyone is invited to come and honor our first responders by running through our beautiful Plumsteadville community. Volunteers and sponsors are needed! For more information, please contact Chrissy Grube, race director, at christinagrube@comcast.net.

EAC - DON'T ALLOW YOUR TRASH TO BECOME LITTER

There is a Pennsylvania Code that actually regulates the type of container used to store municipal waste. Are you in compliance?

1. You need to use a sufficient number of containers to prevent leaks, odors and the attraction of disease-transmitting pests between collections.
2. The container shall be:
 - Constructed to be easily handled for collection
 - Constructed of rust resistant and corrosion resistant materials
 - Be equipped with a tight fitting lid or cover, or otherwise sealed
 - Watertight, leak proof, insect proof and rodent proof
 - Clearly labeled as "municipal waste" or a specific type of municipal waste
3. Municipal waste stored outside of containers shall be tied securely in bundles of a size that can be readily handled for collection, and in a manner that minimizes litter, safety hazards and fire hazards

The above information was summarized from 25 PA Code 285.121. "Containers" The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) encourages you to read the complete text at: www.pacode.com.

VETERAN'S DAY



On November 7, 2015, we honored our Nation's Veterans in the Township's Veterans' Park. This was the first anniversary of the Park's dedication.

The 2015 Veterans' Day observance continued the tradition of Community involvement. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by US Navy Veteran Rachel Mitchell a member of the Student Veteran Association at DelVal, retired Police Officer David Gale led the singing of our National Anthem and Eugene Miller, Pastor of Living Hope Community Church, presented the Invocation. As they have in the past, members of the Naval Sea Cadet Service (NSCC), performed the raising of the Flag.

Posting of the service flags included both Active service members and Veterans including SMSgt Jeff Olivarria PA Air NG, veterans Tim Cathers, US Army, Jessica Clymer, USMC (ret) and active duty USCG and USN personnel. Members of Doylestown Composite Civil Air Patrol (CAP 907), Scout Troop 52, Venture Crew 52, Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, Boy and Cub Scouts of Washington Council, Township Supervisors as well as members of local American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, Disabled American Vets, Vietnam Vets of America, and Marine Corps League took part in the observance. Plumstead Christian School again allowed us to use their facility to host the breakfast prepared by volunteers from Living Hope Community Church at tables and chairs set up by local high school students and scouts. Amy Wilfert sang "God Bless the USA." Thank you to the PVFD, the Police Department and the EMT who continue to support us.

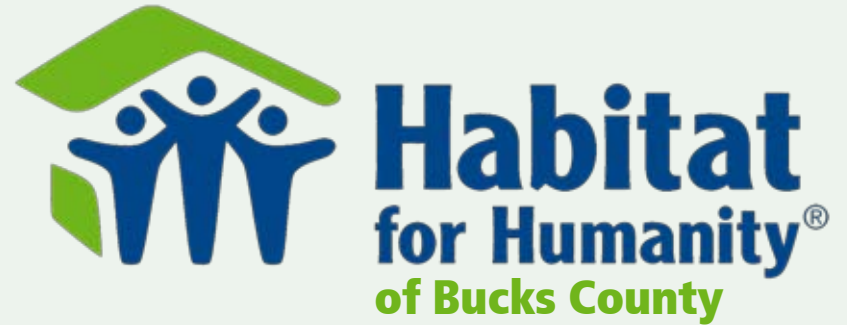
The Township's Veterans Committee will meet the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM in the Township Building.

Some additional information: Old, faded, worn, torn flags are "retired formally by American Legion Post 210. You may leave flags in the collection receptacle behind the Post 210 headquarters, 315 North Street, Doylestown. The receptacle was a project of a local Eagle Scout.

Mark your calendar: on April 9, 2016, Doylestown's Albert R Atkinson, Jr, American Legion Post 210 will host their third Veteran's Information Expo. Information for Veterans and their families will be available. Members of the Veteran support community including representatives from the Bucks County VA office, and local Veterans groups will be in attendance. Additional information will be available on Post 210's website including a calendar of local Veteran group meetings (VFW, DAV, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America). The Post's website is www.doylestownpost210.org.

Also mark your calendar for Doylestown's 150th Memorial Day Observance and Parade on May 30, 2016

Submitted by Jerry Fox - Plumstead Township Veterans' Committee
www.pumsteadvets@yahoo.com



Now's a great time to apply for spring home repairs.

Do you know of low-income homeowners who need to fix up the exterior of their homes? Now is the perfect time to contact Habitat's *A Brush with Kindness* to help with spring clean-up and repairs.

Go to <http://www.habitatbucks.org/a-brush-with-kindness> for details or contact Karen Reeve (Community Development Manager) at 215-822-2812 x 304 or email her at k.reever@habitatbucks.org.

Qualified homeowners pay only a percentage of total repair costs which can be repaid over time using our zero-interest loan. Habitat keeps repair costs low by working with volunteers and donated materials. Typical projects are:

- installation of safety ramps/railings
- painting/repairing siding/roofs
- replacing porches/doors/windows
- landscaping for function/aesthetics
- repairing sidewalks
- many other repairs

Please go to the following links if you are interested in:

Volunteer (building & repairing homes)
<http://habitatbucks.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Sponsorship (financial support)
<http://habitatbucks.org/partnership/>

Homeownership
<http://habitatbucks.org/home-ownership/>

INFORMATION FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

2016 municipal real estate tax bills have been mailed to homeowners. If your taxes are escrowed you should forward your tax bill to your mortgage company for payment.

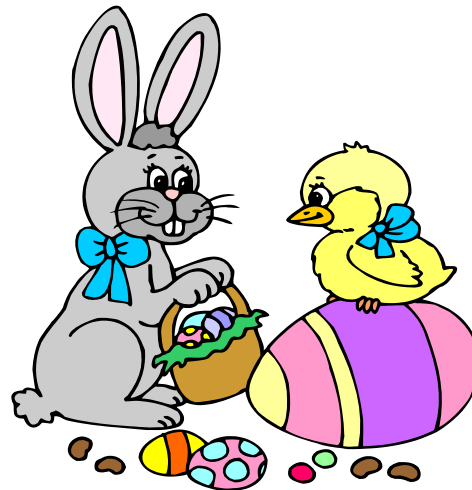
The discount amount for this bill is due April 30, 2016, face amount due date is June 30, 2016.

If you do not receive your bill by March 15, 2016 please call Sherry B Labs, Plumstead Township Tax Collector at 215-766-3785.

Plumstead Township's Annual Egg Hunt Sunday, March 13, 2016

Held at the **Hanusey Park**
4757 Gordon Rd. Doylestown, PA 18902
Starting at 2:00 P.M.
Rain or Shine

Children ages 0-9 may participate in the hunt. They will be divided into age groups to hunt for eggs filled with treats.



Please remember to bring your baskets!

Be sure to check your child's eggs immediately to see if they contain a PRIZE SLIP inside...

For additional information, visit our website at
www.plumstead.org and www.plumsteadparkandrec.org

Please remember to bring your camera – you can have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

Please note that the ball field may be muddy, children may want to wear rain boots.



2016 BCTA TENNIS IN PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP

FOR BCTA PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND TO REGISTER, call 215-322-7020 or www.buckscountytennis.usta.com or email buckscountytennis@verizon.net

Tohickon Middle School Tennis Courts, 5051 Old Easton Road, Doylestown, PA 18902

ADDITIONAL \$3 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE PER PARTICIPANT FOR MAIL-IN REGISTRATION. RECEIVE A \$10 DISCOUNT PER PARTICIPANT BY SIGNING UP FOR THREE OR MORE FIVE-WEEK SEASONS AT ONE TIME!

Learn, Practice & Play implements the games-based approach to teaching tennis using age and skill appropriate equipment and methods-the fast and fun way to learn tennis and/or improve your game. Emphasis is on fun, fitness and play. Free loaner racquets are available. Group size is limited.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Season 1: April 2 • Season 2: May 14 • Season 3: July 2 • Season 4: August 30

LEARN, PRACTICE & PLAY

Pee Wees (recommended ages 4–6): \$65

Season 2: 5 Saturdays, May 21 – June 25, 11:30 am–12:15 pm (no tennis May 28)

Season 3: 5 Saturdays, July 9–August 6, 11:30–12:15 pm

August Interim: 3 Tuesdays and 2 Thursdays, August 16 – August 30, 5:30–6:15 pm

Note: Seasons 1 and 4 Pee Wees programs offered in Doylestown Township and in New Hope.

Little Aces (recommended ages 7–10): \$70

Season 2: 5 Saturdays, May 21 – 25, 10:30–11:30 am (no tennis May 28)

Season 3: 5 Saturdays, July 9 – August 6, 10:30–11:30 pm

August Interim: 3 Tuesdays and 2 Thursdays, August 16 – August 30, 6:15–7:15 pm

Note: Seasons 1 and 4 Little Aces programs offered in Perkasio Borough and Doylestown Township.

Juniors (recommended ages 11–13): \$70

Season 2: 5 Saturdays, May 21 – June 25, 12:30–1:30 pm (no tennis May 28)

Season 3: 5 Saturdays, July 9 – August 6, 12:30–1:30 pm

August Interim: 3 Mondays and 2 Wednesdays, August 15– August 29, 5:30–6:30 pm

Note: Seasons 1 and 4 Juniors programs offered in Perkasio Borough and Doylestown Township.

Teens/Adults (Beginners/ Intermediates) (recommended ages 14 and up): \$70

Season 2: 5 Saturdays, May 21 – June 25, 9:30–10:30 am (no tennis May 28)

Season 3: 5 Saturdays, July 9 – August 6, 9:30–10:30 pm

August Interim: 3 Mondays and 2 Wednesdays, August 15– August 29, 6:30–7:30 pm

Note: Seasons 1 and 4 Teens/Adults programs offered in Perkasio Borough and Doylestown Township.

MORE TENNIS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Check out www.buckscountytennis.usta.com:

- BCTA County-Wide Play Days—social tournaments for youths and adults
- Introductory BCTA Jr. Team Tennis for players (ages 8–13) who previously participated in Learn, Practice and Play or similar programs
- Advanced BCTA Jr. Team Tennis Training and USTA Travel Teams (14-and-under and 18-and-under)
- Middle and High School Training and special High School Competitions
- Adult leagues (USTA Flex League and BCTA Fall Doubles)

Plumstead Annual Tree Lighting at Veteran's Park a Success



On Sunday, December 13th Plumstead Township held its first Holiday Tree Lighting at Veterans Park on Route 611. Over 300 residents participated while listening to songs, decorating luminary bags, and welcoming Santa. The Plumstead Park and Recreation committee would like to thank all businesses and

school groups who participated.

Songs of the season were sung by Girl Scout Troop 21850, Brownie Troop 2144, Tohickon Middle School Chamber Choir and Plumstead Christian Schools Madrigal Singers. "The participation from our community and schools added to the charm of the event, the talent was beautiful to listen to", said Donna DeStefano from the Park and Recreation committee. Each group added to the festivities, and all did an outstanding job.

In addition to the music, over 15 Plumstead businesses set up tables to help with the luminary bag project. Families were given a luminary bag to decorate. The bags could be decorated to celebrate their faith, their family or someone to honor. With the help of the CB East National Honor Society students, families lit their luminary bags during the event. By the end of the evening, over 200 bags twinkled throughout the park, adding to the illumination.



Plumstead Township held its first ever Ugly Sweater Contest. The judges presented four finalists and the audience was asked to help vote by applause. Congratulations to Elizabeth Kunz our first ever Plumstead Ugly Sweater winner! Elizabeth received a trophy and prizes from our local businesses.



To end the festivities, Santa Claus and his wife were escorted by Plumstead and Point Pleasant Volunteer Fire departments on the fire truck to visit with the children. Upon Santa's arrival, he helped turn on the trees to light up the park for the season. As Veteran's park is designed to honor our veterans and those who are currently serve our country, the eight trees are purposely lit in red, white, and blue.

Plumstead Park and Recreation is excited to have had a successful event. We look forward to 2016, and hope many families will join in on what is expected to be an annual tradition.



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Food Pantry in need of donations All year long...

People still need to eat after the holidays – so please keep your donations coming!

As the economy continues to struggle it is important to remember that there are those in our own community who are still struggling, as well.

We tend to forget that the local food pantries are in need of items all year long, not just during the holiday season.

Please consider picking up some nonperishable items (Cereal & PB&J are especially needed, toiletries too) the next time you are in the grocery store and dropping them off in the Food Pantry box located in the lobby of the Township building. We will make sure that all donations are delivered in a timely manner.

POLICE

THERE IS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH POSSESSING A FIREARM

There has been a significant increase in the number of firearms sold recently. There has also been a significant increase in the number of people applying for a permit to carry a concealed firearm. A lot of these are first time buyers who are now deciding to carry a firearm.

Though the second amendment provides us the right to own a firearm, times have changed since it was first written. Technology today has advanced the capability of firearms and ammunition from the days of the muzzleloaders our founding fathers had.

If you decide to purchase a firearm, whether for sport, protection or just to have one, there is a lot of responsibility that comes with this decision. Firearms are used for recreation, competition, hunting and protection. They do provide enjoyment, however a firearm is NOT A TOY and not to be taken lightly. It can end a life in an instant. There are several things you need to know regarding firearms.

You need to know the laws that are in place regarding firearms as there are federal and individual state laws as well as local laws. Some of these include when you buy, sell, transfer and decide to carry. Please don't mistake opinions or interpretation of the law as fact. Do your research from a reliable source. You don't want to find yourself on the wrong side of the law.

You need to understand how a firearm operates, especially the one you own or have considered purchasing. There are numerous variations. There are handguns and long guns, e.g., rifles and shotguns, single shot, revolver and semi-automatic. There are differences among these as well in both manufacturers and models. Don't assume that you will be safer just because you have it. You need to know how to safely handle, as well as use it. The store clerk or friend that may have shown you some of the basic things is not enough. You need to get some degree of training. Training should cover safety, fundamentals of shooting, carrying techniques (if you are going to carry), liability, as well as interaction with law enforcement.

There are numerous locations that offer training classes. Most public shooting ranges offer classes and most gun stores will be able to direct you to a training site. Think of it like riding a bike or driving a car, there was some degree of learning to use it properly.

There are numerous gun rules and safety considerations. However, here are four universal safety rules to live by!

- 1) Treat every gun as loaded, even when you know it is not loaded. (this is a mindset)
- 2) Never point the muzzle (end of the barrel) at anything you are not willing to shoot.
- 3) Keep your finger off the trigger until you are on your target, or a threat, and you are going to shoot.
- 4) Be aware of your target or threat and what is in line with it, both in front of it and behind it. (You are responsible for the final resting place of the bullet)

Owning a firearm carries an enormous responsibility and is not for everyone. If you are uncomfortable with, or are unable to accept these responsibilities, it would be strongly recommended that you not own a firearm.

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Congressional Update

Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick

As a father and a member of Congress, I know the education of our children is one of the most important objectives facing our nation. While Bucks County is home to award-winning schools, amazing teachers and committed parents, it is my goal to increase access to quality education to students across the nation.

With that in mind, I am pleased that this Congress has taken bipartisan action to strengthen our education system by increasing local control and empowering educators to prepare our kids for the 21st century – including measures I advocated in the House.

Included in larger Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was language to promote environmental literacy through environmental education. The provisions come from the No Child Left Inside Act (NCLI) that I introduced with Congressman John Sarbanes, D-MD, in this and the previous Congresses. The NCLI provides access to federal grants for teachers who design and implement environmental education programs in and outside the classroom and strengthens relationships between school districts, colleges, environmental non-profits, parks and other community-based organizations, such as the Bucks County Conservation District, a strong proponent of this concept.

Students can only learn when they are in a safe setting – that means protecting them from those who would seek to do them harm in the classroom. That’s why it was critical that the ESSA included a measure to address student safety in our school districts here and across state lines. This policy is spawned from my Jeremy Bell Act that I’ve worked on in the House since 2006.

From education policy to assistance with federal agencies, my office is open to address your concerns and interests relative to federal matters. Do not hesitate to call, write or stop in the district office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1717 Langhorne-Newtown Road, Suite 400, Langhorne, PA 19047 (across from the George School). Or visit www.fitzpatrick.house.gov, or call: 215.579.8102.



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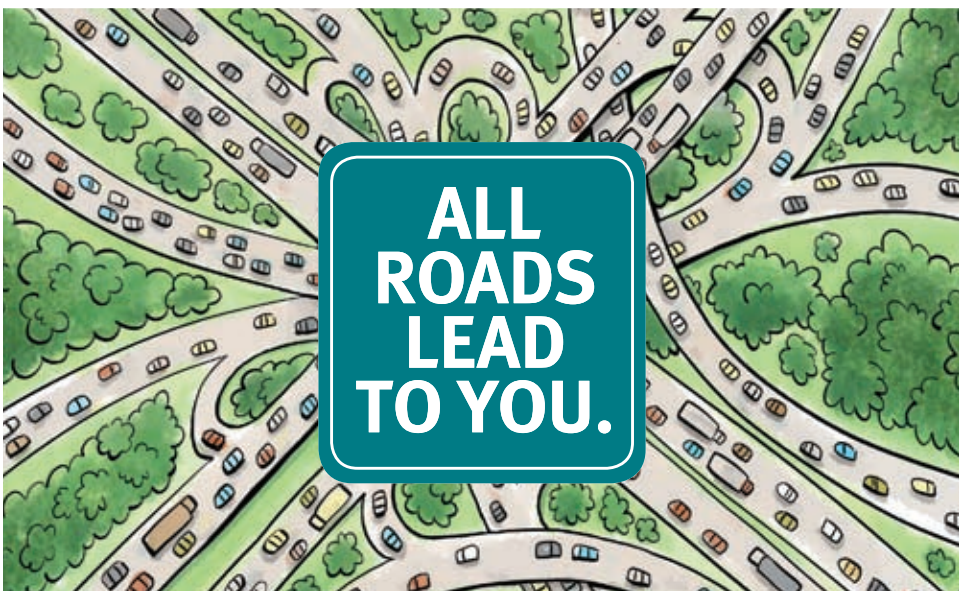
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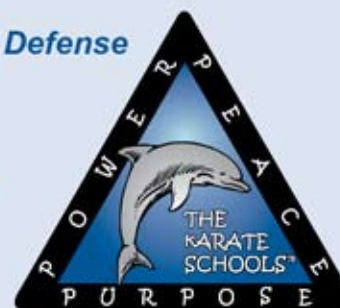
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