

Plumstead Township

BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

PA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year!

Plumstead Police officers are well trained on how to react to unexpected situations they may encounter on their shifts, but there is little training available for the surprise Chief David Mettin encountered at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 10, 2024. Expecting a routine meeting, that he has attended many times before, the Chief was blindsided by seeing his wife and children when he entered the meeting room.

The occasion was to honor the Chief on his recognition as the American Legion Department of Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. State Representative Shelby Labs of the 143rd Legislative District presented the Chief with a House Citation which reads in part, "therefore the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of



PA pays a respectful tribute to Chief David A. Mettin upon his richly deserved recognition; notes with pride and gratitude his record of service which far exceeds those standards normally ascribed as exemplary; offers best wishes for every future success."



Next up was Shannon Sticker, Deputy Chief of Staff to State Senator Steve Santarsiero of the 10th District who also presented the Chief with a Senate citation which reads, in part; "Now therefore, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania salutes Chief David A. Mettin upon his superb record of service, which far exceeds those standards normally ascribed as exemplary; offers best wishes for a most rewarding and fulfilling future". After a well-deserved round of applause, the Chief left the meeting to spend some time with his family who had traveled to join in this event.

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Plumstead Township Information

Contact Information

Township Office
 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Telephone: 215-766-8914 • Fax: 215-766-9831
 www.plumstead.org
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Police Department
 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 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

Public Works Department
 Floyd S. Bryan Public Works Center
 5119 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Office: 215-766-0189 • Fax: 215-766-1439
 Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 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.

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

State Senator Steven Santarsiero:
 Senate District 10
 Building 100, Suite 121
 2003 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901
 (215) 489-5000 • Fax: (215) 345-1361

State Representative - Shelby Labs
 Silo Hill Professional Building, 1032 N. Easton Road, Doylestown, PA
 Telephone: 215-489-2126
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Board of Supervisors:

Chairman Jim McComb
Vice Chairman Dan Hilferty
Asst. Secretary Greg Bankos
Asst. Treasurer Matt Given
Member Ken Lichtenstein

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Angela P. Benner
Assistant Township Manager / Zoning Officer: Steve Hicks
Assistant to Township Manager & AP: Debbie DiAngelo
Accounts Receivable: Virginia Bowling
Municipal Administrator: Michelle Storti
Director of Public Works: Alan Bleam
PW Administrative Assistant & Water Billing: Pam Gravel
Chief of Police: David Mettin
Police Dept. Administrative Assistant: Sarah Ferri
Police Clerk: Jennifer Bodder
Code Enforcement: Keystone Municipal Services - Phil Neas
Fire Marshal: Jeff Gouldey

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 7PM (except where otherwise noted).
The Planning Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM.
The Zoning Hearing Board meets at the call of the Chairman.
The Environmental Advisory Council meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM.
 All meetings are held at the Township Building unless otherwise noted on the Township calendar.

Save the Date

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Memorial Day Observance Event @ Veterans Park -9am..... | 5/25 | 12. Iron Pigs Game | 7/21 |
| 2. Summer Movie at Hanusey | 5/31 | 13. Archery Camp (week 2) | 7/22-7/26 |
| 3. Multi-Sport | Jun-Aug | 14. Concert in the Park / Galena Brass | 7/26 |
| 4. Blood Drive at Hanusey | 6/5 | 15. Concert in the Park / GruvTyme | 8/2 |
| 5. Bridge Dedication (Details to follow) | 6/15 | 16. Archery Camp (week 3) | 8/12-8/16 |
| 6. Concert in the Park - Funkin Soul Nuts | 6/21 | 17. Concert in the Park / Duelings Pianos | 8/16 |
| 7. Camp Plumstead | 6/24-6/28 | 18. Blood Drive at Hanusey | 9/9 |
| 8. Theatre Camp (week 1) | 6/24-6/28 | 19. Community Day (Movie Night) | 9/28 |
| 9. Archery Camp (week 1) | 6/24-6/28 | 20. Trick or Treat | 10/26 (Rain date 10/27) |
| 10. Theatre Camp (week 2 - advanced) | 7/1-7/3 | 21. Annual Tree Lighting | 12/6 (Rain date 12/7) |
| 11. Concert in the Park / Barefoot Bobby & the Breakers ... | 7/12 | 22. Blood Drive at Hanusey | 12/16 |

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

The Plumstead Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is currently looking for volunteers to fill two vacancies. The EAC is a seven-member volunteer citizens commission that is appointed by the Township Board of Supervisors. The EAC meets for public meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. Its purpose is to advise the Township Board of Supervisors on matters dealing with protection, conservation, management, and use of natural resources. Additionally, the EAC helps to educate residents of Plumstead about the importance of environmental protection.

As part of the EAC, you would be a part of the planning and participation of environmentally friendly and exciting community events such as Stream Clean-ups, Road Clean-ups, Tree Plantings, and Recycling Events. You will also take part in special EAC projects for the Township such as the Recycled Plastic Park Benches and the Reusable Bag programs.

If you are interested in joining the EAC, please fill out a Statement of Interest form, located at www.plumstead.org/geninfo/statementofinterest.pdf. The form can be submitted in person at the Township Building (5186 Stump Rd.), or emailed directly to the Township Manager, Angela Benner, at abenner@plumstead.gov.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Commendations

On March 19, 2024, officers from Plumstead Township received Merit and Commendation awards from Solebury Township and Doylestown Township for their responses and actions involving high-risk incidents that they assisted with.

Chief Dominick Bellizzie presented Corporal Michael Johnson of Plumstead Township Police Department with an Official Commendation. Commendation of Merit was awarded for life saving measures performed during a call for a suicidal subject that Corporal Johnson assisted Solebury Township with early January 2024.



Plumstead Township Police Department's Ofc. Patrick Raubenstine was presented a Commendation by Chief A. Dean Logan of Doylestown Township for his actions in assisting in the apprehension of a burglary suspect. Ofc. Raubenstine was joined by officers from Doylestown Township and Buckingham Township in receiving the award. Officer Thomas Rutecki was awarded a Life Saving by Chief A. Dean Logan of Doylestown Township for his actions in assisting in saving the life of a suicidal person on Swamp Rd. at Rte. 611 Bypass overpass. Ofc. Rutecki was joined by Ofc. Patrick Raubenstine and Ofc. Matthew Sozio and members of Doylestown Township and Buckingham Township Police Departments who received Commendations for their actions on the night of the incident. Excellent work by all!

OFFICER THOMAS J. RUTECKI IS AWARDED THE POLICE STAR

On January 2, 2024, at quarter after 12am, Officer Thomas J. Rutecki was requested to assist members of the Doylestown Township Police Department in looking for a report of a fifteen year old, suicidal female. A female was reported to be sitting on top of an unknown 611 Bypass overpass bridge. Officer Rutecki immediately responded to the Rte 313 overpass at the route 611 Bypass, finding the female straddling the overpass bridge guardrail above the bypass below.

Officer Rutecki exited his patrol car and approached the female. Officer Rutecki remained calm and attempted to build a bond with the female by talking about school and her school activities. He used exceptional active listening skills while under a great deal of stress. While speaking with the female, Officer Rutecki had the foresight to request all traffic stopped along the 611 Bypass.

During the incident, the female swung both legs over the guardrail, now facing the 611 Bypass. Officer Rutecki continued to use his communication skills, showing empathy and remaining calm. As Officer Rutecki was speaking with the female for five and a half minutes, he was able to eventually seize an opportunity to physically secure the female and pull her from the bridge, safely ending this incident.

Officer Rutecki's actions on January 2, 2024, are commendable. On this night, Officer Rutecki used his training, skills and abilities, along with his years of police experience and demonstrated heroic policework. It is an honor and privilege to have Officer Rutecki work for the Plumstead Township Police Department.

The Police Star is issued to an officer who has displayed heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty under conditions less than extreme, but with substantial risk to the officer's safety. In many cases, police Command Staff are not on-scene to witness these heroic actions. But in this case, Officer Rutecki activated his in-car and body worn cameras to document the event. I have watched this event several times from Ofc. Rutecki's recorded video can attest to the fact that, due to his actions, a tragedy was averted and a young life was saved.

On this date, March 13th, 2024, Officer Thomas J. Rutecki is awarded the Police Star for displaying heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty.

POLICE PENSION COMMITTEE

Volunteer Wanted for the Pension Committee. The Township is looking for a resident with experience in investments and/or finance to volunteer to fill a recent vacancy on the Police Pension Board. The Board meets quarterly on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 3:30 p.m.



PLUMSTEADVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Swearing-in of 2 new members (Brendan Speers and John "Jack" Hurley), for the PVFC, at the BOS meeting on March 12th. Welcome Aboard!



Brendan Speers joined Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company in February of 2024 after living in the area for 10 years and is currently a father of 3 young children. Brendan decided to join the fire company after he lost a friend that died in the line of duty and he wants to be able to show his children what it means to be a good member of the community by giving back! Brendan will be completing his Firefighter One training over the summer.

John Hurley joined Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company in February of 2024. John grew up in the area and decided to see what the fire company was all about after witnessing a house fire near his family's home. John will be completing his Firefighter One training over the summer.





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2024 BUCKS COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Registration is not required in Bucks County this year.

April 6	Lower Bucks	Bucks County Community College 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, Newtown Township
May 18	Upper Bucks	Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie, Bedminster Township
June 29	Central Bucks	Central Bucks South High School 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, Warrington Township
August 10	Lower Bucks	Bensalem High School 4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, Bensalem Township
October 26	Upper Bucks	Strayer Middle School 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township



**Collection events run from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Rain or shine**



What You Can Bring

Up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products. Hazardous products will have cautionary words on the label, for example: *Danger, Warning, or Caution*. Other words or phrases that can signal hazardous products include: *poisonous, hazardous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling*.

What You Can't Bring

- ELECTRONICS**-TVs-Computers-Cell Phones-Any Corded Devices
- LATEX PAINT**-Non-Hazardous Waste/Water-based*
- Appliances**-with or without Freon
- Asbestos**
- Explosives / Ammunition**
- Gas Cylinders**
- Household Batteries**-Regular Alkaline
- Medical Waste / Prescription Drugs**
- Non-Hazardous Waste**
- PCBs**
- Pressurized CFCs / Freon**
- Propane Tanks**-Greater than 16 oz.
- Smoke Detectors**
- Radioactive Waste**
- Tires**
- Unidentified Waste**

*Remove lid to allow to air dry or mix with absorbent (e.g., kitty litter) until no longer a liquid and discard in plastic trash bag.

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP

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2 PM - 7PM

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9/19/24

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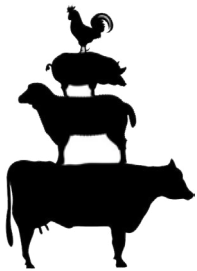
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VETERANS COMMITTEE



VETERANS COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER

The Plumstead Veterans Advisory Ad Hoc Committee has one opening for an interested resident. An applicant does not necessarily have to be a veteran but should have a sincere interest in supporting our residents who are now serving or have served in the Armed Forces. The purpose of the Veterans Committee is to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters involving the support of special veterans' events planning efforts and support outreach efforts on behalf of Plumstead Township residents. The Committee currently supports two annual events – Memorial Day and Veterans Day. In addition, we are in the midst of a program where we dedicate township bridges to those who have lost their lives serving our country. We have completed three thus far. There may be other similar programs in the future. The Committee meets once each month on the fourth Wednesday at 7:00 PM. If you are interested, please complete the Statement of Interest for Township Boards, Committees, & Commissions available at <https://plumstead.org/geninfo/statementofinterest.pdf>.

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP SEWAGE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Have you received one of these bright yellow postcards? If so, that is because the Township records indicate that it has been three years or more since you last had your septic system pumped.

Pennsylvania requires municipalities to monitor properties that have an on-lot septic system to ensure that each system is pumped every three years. This State requirement is to minimize/prevent a potential health and environmental issue if an on-lot septic system fails.

Once your on-lot septic system has been pumped, you must provide the Township with a pump report and/or invoice to update our records. The documentation can be dropped off at the Township Building, or emailed to Michelle Storti, Municipal Administrator, at mstorti@plumstead.gov.

If you believe you received a notification by mistake, please contact Steve Hicks, Assistant Township Manager, at shicks@plumstead.gov.

PUBLIC WORKS

2024 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Major infrastructure projects approved as a part of the 2024 budget include the following.

Repaving of Old Easton Road between Signature Drive and Point Pleasant Pike and north of Point Pleasant Pike 2600 feet.

Storm inlet and road base repairs with micro-surface paving on Barn Owl Road, Craigs View, Timberly Lane and Patriots Ridge Drive.

Milling and overlay paving on Cross Keys Drive and Airport Boulevard.

Water main extension along Gordon Road between Carriage Hill and Patriots Ridge.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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I've been married to my wife, Janelle, for 30 years. We have three children: Darren, Dylan & Shannon. I enjoy hunting, helping my children show cows for 4-H, and vacationing with my family. I enjoy the variety of work that we do in the Public Works department as well as my co-workers.

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PUBLIC WORKS *continued*

WATER SYSTEM NOTES

Calls come into the Public Works office from time to time regarding water quality concerns and excess use issues.

Potable water is provided to customers from ground water wells across the township. Most notable is the high, naturally occurring, mineral content (hardness) that can cause light discoloration and sediment build up. The township addresses this concern by flushing the system through fire hydrants at least annually. Flushing moves a large volume of water all at once, up, and out of the system through a fire hydrant. This carries sediment and other naturally occurring elements that have settled out in the water main.

From time to time, we receive calls about "cloudy" water. In most cases, this is simply air in the water. If you fill a clear glass from your tap and see cloudiness, let the glass sit for several minutes and the air will dissipate. You will know it was air even if you were to take a spoon and quickly stir the water in the glass. The water should remain clear. Air can enter the home plumbing through malfunctioning equipment or leaks.

In almost every situation, when we receive a call regarding low or no pressure, it is likely caused by something within the home. Typically, a whole house water filter, specialized water treatment equipment, or a malfunctioning water softener is the likely cause. In rare cases the cause can be hydrant use for a fire, or a water main break. Each of these appliances requires some level of service on a regular basis. Malfunctions include filters not being changed at regular intervals and are a common cause of quality issues.

A malfunctioning water softener that was installed and had never been serviced was the recent cause for an extremely high-water bill. Thousands of gallons of water went "down the drain" and had to be paid for by the customer. Please consult the owner's manuals and reputable service companies for more information on the proper management of these appliances. Adding salt and allowing the unit to automatically backwash are not the only things that need to be done to a water softener.

Finally, you can check your water usage by simply monitoring the water meter in your home. At a quiet time when no use is occurring, stand at your water meter. The numbers/dial should not be moving. If it is, you may have a toilet leaking or other appliance allowing water to flow freely. You can read your own meter on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis and calculate your usage to see if you believe it to be within a normal range.

Please see the photograph above right. Inside the home, the township is **ONLY** responsible for the water meter. All other plumbing close to or around the meter is the responsibility

of the homeowner. There are two large brass nuts on either side of the meter head. The meter should be sealed with a small wire to prevent unauthorized meter removal. Anything leaking outside these two nuts is the responsibility of the homeowner.



We have a responsibility to provide clean, safe water, and we do. While we cannot offer specific advice, we hope that these few general topics will be seriously considered as a part of your normal home maintenance and care.

2024 Water Billing

<u>Billing Date:</u>	<u>Due Date:</u>
April 1	May 1
July 1	Aug 1
Oct 1	Nov 1
Jan 2	Feb 3

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PLUMSTEAD LAND PRESERVATION EDUCATION & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

“WHY WE CAN’T JUST SAY NO! TO LAND DEVELOPMENT”

The function of the LPEAC is to further our township’s goals in preserving open space, which is typically accomplished through Conservation Easements and other preservation covenants that run with the Deed that will Preclude future development.

The issue of “Just Say NO to Development” is routinely raised at Planning Commission and BOS meetings when Development is proposed. The primary goal of the LPEAC is to preserve our beautiful, natural, bucolic and ecologically important land in our township. The LPEAC works towards accomplishing these goals by educating Plumstead residents on the benefits of preserving land in the Township. By Informing and Promoting Conservation Easements to current landowners in the township this avoids the issue of “Saying No” because these easements can preserve the properties into perpetuity.

Benefits of Land Preservation for property owners & our community:

- Landowners continue to own and use their property
- Protects wildlife, trees and plants & ecosystems
- Protects natural resources – Groundwater, streams, rivers, wetlands and more
- Protects farming and other agriculture
- Scenic benefits for owners and neighbors
- Protects historic land and buildings
- Tax benefits (Income, Estate, State etc)

The LPEAC is here to educate the Plumstead Township community on all of these aspects, to inform Landowners of this opportunity and funding programs that are available, and advise all residents about Preservation benefits.

Plumstead Township’s beautiful open spaces, easy access, and quality of life make it an attractive place to live for many. But rapid growth and development can change the scenic landscape of Plumstead Township, making it less attractive to people who live here. Over the past few decades, new, large-scale housing developments have been built in many places in Central Bucks County. A common theme in responses to the township resident survey was a general aversion to new development and a desire to maintain the township’s character.

So if sprawl and development potentially change the township in a negative way, why can’t the township just tell developers to go elsewhere? And why would we accommodate development by allowing higher density uses in some parts of the township?

Two reasons prevent Plumstead from stopping development altogether and even compel the township to accommodate it.

1. Plumstead Township cannot keep private property owners from gaining some economic use out of their properties. Widely known as the “takings clause,” the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states “nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.” When a government regulation denies all economic use or value of a property, a “taking” of property results. Applied in a land use regulatory context, this means that all property must be zoned to allow for some form of viable economic use.
2. Every municipality must also provide for basic forms of housing and all institutional, commercial, and industrial uses. In a series of court decisions, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court found that every community must provide for its “fair share” of each particular use, so Plumstead Township can’t just prohibit what it perceives as undesirable uses.

If the amount of land zoned for a particular use is disproportionately small or if the use cannot be reasonably accommodated under the provisions of the zoning ordinance, then the courts will hold the ordinance to be exclusionary, will grant relief, and permit the developer to build whatever they wish, despite the municipality’s zoning ordinance. Thus, to meet this fair share requirement, Plumstead’s zoning ordinance must contain provisions for all basic forms of housing and other common types of development.

Many people want to preserve Plumstead Township in a state that they desire. But if every community did this, there would be nowhere for anyone to go. Because of this, the law requires that every community allow for some growth to accommodate the needs of the greater population.

Moreover, the township should not want to completely stop development and growth. A well-planned development area that allows different forms of development provides a stimulus to the local and regional economy, and the township has tools available to effectively guide growth that benefits the town and its residents. Anticipated and planned increases in ratables for the township helps offset the increasing cost of services and provides an adaptable economic engine that can keep the municipality financially stable, but not stagnant. Planning allows appropriate and reasonable growth that helps existing residents and those who would also want to take advantage of Plumstead Township’s high quality of life.



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- o Tot Lots
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- o Batting cage
- o Honor Roll Boards
- o Ice Rick (seasonal)
- o Veteran's Signage

All of our parks are open to the public from sunrise to sunset. Check out our website will all the details on our parks: <https://plumstead.org/parks.html>



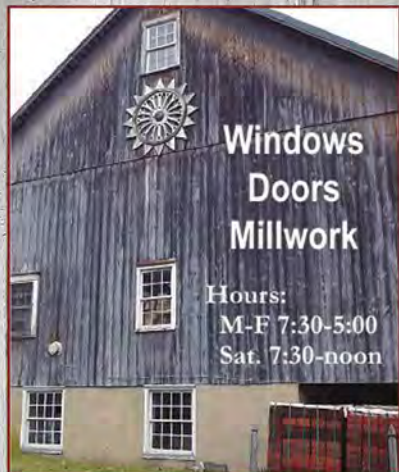
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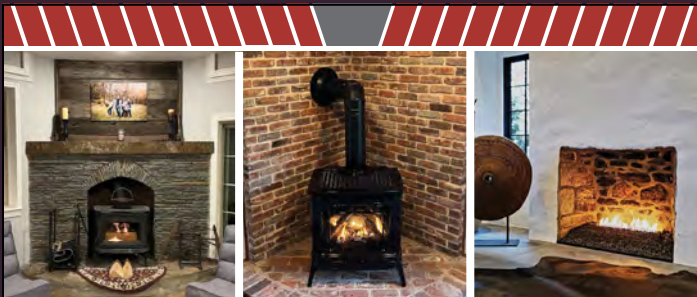


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