

# Richmond Township

## INFORMER

SPRING 2016

[richmondtpw@windstream.net](mailto:richmondtpw@windstream.net)

### Richmond Township Building

30348 State Hwy 408  
Townville, PA 16360  
Phone: 814-967-3822  
Fax: 814-967-2942  
Meetings: 1st Thursday, 6:00 pm,  
at the Township Office Building

### SUPERVISORS

Don James, Chairman  
Glenn Sharpe  
Bryan Morton

### SECRETARY

Rhonda Phillips

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Bonnie Bradish

### TAX COLLECTOR

Kathleen Wheelock  
814-967-4319  
Office hours may vary.  
Please call for times.

### AUDITORS

Gina DeFrancesco-Hayden  
Laura Morton  
Tammy Turner

### PLANNING COMMISSION

John Lawrence - Chairman  
Gary Coburn  
Luigi DeFrancesco  
Mike Lokuta  
Tom Morgan  
Don Myers

### RECREATION BOARD

Scott Wheelock - President  
Matt Capron  
Patti Capron  
Dave Crago  
Phyllis Humes - Secretary/Treasurer  
Bill Taylor  
Kathie Taylor

### ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Bill Shoemaker

### EMS COORDINATOR

Bill Taylor

### PICNIC SHELTER/FACILITY

#### BOOKINGS:

David Crago - phone: 814-967-3551  
Email: [cragofullhouse@windstream.net](mailto:cragofullhouse@windstream.net)

## A WORD FROM YOUR SUPERVISORS

### *Hello Everyone:*

As you know, the Township has three newly elected officials, one supervisor and two auditors. I'd like to welcome Bryan Morton to the position of Supervisor. Bryan and his family have been active in the Township for several years – volunteering with the Rec Board, Township Clean Up Day and Rec Center Clean up. Glenn and I are looking forward to working with him. I also want to welcome Tammy Turner and Laura Morton as the Township's new Auditors. They join Auditor Gina DeFrancesco-Hayden, and have recently completed their first audit together for 2015. My sincere thanks go to all three of them for their time and effort and for doing a great job!

In addition, I want to thank our Township officials, past and present, for their dedication and hard work. Many thanks go to former Supervisor Bill Taylor, former Auditor Becky Schreffler, current Secretary Rhonda Phillips and all the people who served before them. Thanks to all for their time and commitment.

Once again, it's that time of the year when we are all ready for Spring. We're looking forward to sunny days and smooth roads to drive on. Your patience is much needed here. Allow me to explain. We are all anxious for warm weather so we can plant those gardens and work outside. In this part of the world, we get a day or two of nice weather and then, as I write this, we get snow and freezing temperatures. We all know if we plant that garden on those nice days, those cold

days will prevent it from growing. We have the same kind of problem when grading the roads. Right now, we would do more harm than good if we were to put the grader on our roads. Please understand that we do not want you to have to drive on or around potholes, but please also understand that this is a weather related occurrence as well as a weather related fix. Please be patient with us and we will get to your road as soon as we can. In the meantime, please call the Township at (814) 967-3822 to report any problem areas.

Good news!! With the help of John Lawrence and the Planning Commission, the Township has been given a grant from the Crawford County Planning Commission. This money will be used to seal the walking trail, pour cement pads for the picnic shelters and improve handicap access to those shelters along with improved access to the Rec building. This money was from the "Act 13 Environmental Initiative Grants" (unconventional gas well impact fees). Thank you again to our Planning Commission, Crawford County Planning Commission and Crawford County Commissioners.

There are many folks in this Township who volunteer their time and effort with no compensation. Please thank anyone you know who volunteers with the Rec Board, the Athletic Association, the Website, the newsletter and the Planning Commission. All of these people deserve a huge pat on the back as well as your thanks. They help make Richmond Township a great place to live and raise a family. Please consider joining these folks and

volunteer some of your time. I'm sure you'll find it to be fun as well as rewarding!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Supervisor.

**Don James, Chairman**  
**(814) 398-4214**

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**Richmond Township Residents:**

It sure has been a mild winter. I think we got off pretty easy compared to other parts of the country. I hope we can get to the roads earlier this spring, providing we don't get too much rain. It is surprising how much frost is in the ground in places, and the road crew has been dealing with those blisters as soon as possible.

If you are going to be building in the township and needing permits, you can contact the following people. For septic permits, call Michael Rinkevich at 814-833-1177. For building permits, call Tom Sonntag at 814-860-8044. You might have to leave a message, but they will get back to you.

We have a new supervisor this year, Bryan Morton. I look forward to working with Bryan. I think he will bring some new ideas to the table to help keep things moving forward for our township. We also have two new auditors who are a welcome addition - Tammy Turner and Laura Morton. I am sure they will do a great job for our township. I have to thank Bill Taylor for his commitment to the township during his years of service. Also, thanks to Becky Shreffler for her 30+ years as an auditor. Thank you both for helping to make Richmond Township a great place to live.

Have a safe summer.

**Glenn Sharpe, Supervisor**  
**(814) 720-5741**

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**Hello Friends and Fellow Residents,**

We have been very fortunate with the mild winter this year. We were able to keep winter activities minimal allowing for our crew to get caught up on some delayed routine maintenance around the Township Building and roads. I would like to thank the residents of our township for their patience when the harsh weather did arrive. Spring is here and summer is just around the corner so we have a lot of items to tackle this year and I am excited to try and make some positive improvements as the year goes on.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt took place on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The Easter Bunny and all of our volunteers did a great job of welcoming and entertaining many children and families. I think this event gets bigger every year! Many thanks to everyone who participated and those who attended. A good time was had by all!

Special thanks to John Lawrence for his assistance in helping acquire the Act 13 Grant. The Grant will be applied to multiple projects around the Rec Building and we are looking forward to sharing all the improvements with our fellow residents. Also please remember to have patience with our crew as the roads are difficult to maintain until all the frost is completely gone. Our road crew will get to your road as soon as possible as we are going to prioritize roads moving forward.

This will be my first year as Supervisor and I would like to thank everyone in our Township for their continued support throughout the year.

**Bryan Morton, Supervisor**  
**(814) 967-2114**

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**FROM YOUR ROAD CREW**

***Hello everyone:***

After a fairly mild winter, spring has arrived. The mild winter gave us some time to do some much needed work on the brine truck. A new, more efficient furnace was also installed at the Township Building. Now, like you, we're ready for warm, sunny days to bring the frost out of the roads so we can grade and repair the winter damage. Road repairs will be our main focus as the weather improves. Right now it would do more harm than good to start grading – the roads are soft where the frost is coming out and the grader is too heavy. We have purchased a transport disc which has enabled us to open up the frost blisters so they air out and dry up faster and also move material around to fill up some of the potholes. This should be a big help until we can start grading. Please be patient as we start with the worst areas first. We will get to your road as soon as we possibly can.

We have applied for and been awarded a grant from the Conservation Office for \$67,000 for a project on North Richmond Road. We will be replacing two large culverts at the bottom of the hill. Work will begin sometime this summer.

Just a reminder that the Township Clean Up Day will be Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 am until 3 pm. A crew of volunteers will unload your vehicle for you. Just remember that we will NOT be accepting tires, paint, household garbage, shingles and electronics (TVs, computers, monitors, phones). Appliances must have freon removed.

Please be safe and drive slowly. As always, you can call the Township Building at (814) 967-3822 to report any problems with the roads.

**Charlie Hartman**  
**(814) 967-3822**

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## **PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

### ***Hello Neighbors and Friends,***

The Richmond Township Planning Commission meets on the last Monday of the month at 6 pm at the township's office/garage building. The members are: Gary Coburn, Tom Morgan, Dan Myers, Mike Lokuta, Luigi DeFrancesco, and John Lawrence.

We have been working with the Supervisors and the Rec Board to develop a long range plan for improvements to the Rec Building and exploring some different grant opportunities to fund the improvements. The good news is that we have been awarded a grant for \$9,000 from the Crawford County Planning Commission, which will go towards sealing the walking trail, pouring cement pads at the picnic shelters and improved access to the shelters and the Rec Building. Additional improvements are also being considered. As things move forward, we will keep you informed via the Township website.

The County Conservation folks will be planting some trees at the township garage area in April with the help of some students from Titusville High School. We are also hopeful that we can secure some seedlings from the game commission to plant on the cleared area by the garage.

If there are any land use questions that we can help you with, please contact us at the township office at (814) 967-3822. Thank you.

***John Lawrence, Chairman  
(814) 398-8101***

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## **FROM THE REC BOARD**

### ***Welcome Spring!***

Last Fall, the Rec Board hosted the first Halloween "Trunk or Treat" at the Rec Building parking

lot. There were twelve decorated vehicles with costumed participants who handed out treats to all who attended. This was a new twist on our Halloween celebrating, a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who contributed and hopefully, our "Trunk or Treat" will grow even bigger this year.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Building was held on March 26 at 10 am. It was sponsored by the Richmond Township Recreation Board and Southern Care Hospice. 117 children were signed in and it's estimated that approximately 300 people attended. Many thanks to our co-sponsor Southern Care Hospice as well as Brian's Country Store in Little Cooley, Dave's Place, Lost Lanes Bowling Alley and Stanford Farms for their respective contributions of bicycles, gift certificates and hay. And, as always, thank you to our many volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

May 14 is scheduled for the recreation grounds clean-up day. Volunteers for this fun-filled event are always welcome. Come prepared to dig, weed, cut, rake, spread mulch and, in general, spruce up the wonderful park and grounds that we all enjoy. Food and beverage is always supplied. Once again, many hands make light work. Come and join us, we always have fun.

The annual Memorial Day service will be held at the Rec Building on May 30 at 10 am. Please plan to attend this service in honor of our vets and don't forget to bring a flower or plant to be planted at the Memorial in remembrance of our loved ones.

The Rec Board has purchased 50 more folding chairs for the Rec Building use and activities. Also, grant monies have been obtained for upgrades on the walking trail and picnic shelters.

We hope you enjoy the spring and summer activities provided

at the Recreation Park. Have a great summer season.

***Scott Wheelock, President  
(814) 967-4319***

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## **RICHMOND ATHLETIC ASSOC.**

Richmond Township Athletic Association is in the process of kicking off their 2016 summer baseball/softball season. We hope you can all come and enjoy the games and our facility.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed for coaching T-ball (4-6 yrs. old), coaching 11/12 yr. old boys Little League, concession stand food handlers, field maintenance crew and umpiring. Volunteering to provide your skills in any of these areas would be greatly appreciated.

We are also looking for sponsors for T-ball teams (2), 7/8 year old baseball, 9/10 year old baseball, 9/10 year old softball and 11/12 year old baseball. Field sponsorship is \$75 which helps buy equipment, dress the fields prior to the game and provides a vinyl sign to be displayed around the playing fields.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming season and hope all of you can find the time to attend a game or two. We're sure you'll have a good time!

***Billy Shoemaker, President  
(814) 573-9798***

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## **TAX COLLECTOR**

Kathleen Wheelock  
Hours:

April 19, 21 thru 28 and 30  
9 AM until 12 Noon

April 20 and 27  
4 PM until 7 PM

After April 30  
By appointment only.

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**WCJ RANCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

WCJ Ranch, located in Richmond Township, is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for combat disabled veterans and disabled hunters to enjoy the sport of hunting. This past fall, volunteers clocked 3,165 hours during 5 outreach projects helping disabled vets. WCJ Ranch had 162 visitors and hosted 70 hunts during this time. Summer plans are to continue the fishing program initiated last year with disabled vets and hospice wards at the Erie VA Hospital.

Thanks to all who live around us in Richmond Township. You have been a great friend to the Ranch and to our programs.

God Bless.

**Charles Schmitz**  
**President, Field Guide**  
*(814) 724-1930*  
*WCJ Ranch*  
*20397 North Richmond Road*  
*Cambridge Springs, PA 16403*

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**

**Tuesday, April 26th**

7AM until 8 PM

Rec Building

**TOWNSHIP CLEAN UP DAY**

**Saturday, April 30th**

8 AM until 3 PM

Township Building/Garage

**REC CENTER CLEAN-UP DAY**

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

8 AM until ????

Rec Center

Volunteers welcome!!

**MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM**

**Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

10 AM

Rec Building

*Please consider bringing a  
plant or flowers to be  
planted around the flagpole*