

Richmond Township

INFORMER

FALL 2016

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

A WORD FROM YOUR SUPERVISORS

Hello Everyone:

Where does the time go? Fall is here and Winter is coming! However, I can't remember a nicer summer than the one we just had. I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed it as much as Sandy and I did.

It has been a busy year for Richmond Township. I don't have enough room to write about everything that has been undertaken this year, so an abbreviated version will have to do.

We had our preliminary budget meeting for 2017 on September 30th. I can assure you that Glenn, Bryan and I pay careful attention to the proper use of your tax dollars. The good news is that, once again, we are living within our budget and we expect that no tax increase will be needed!

Our township has seen its fair share of new construction this past year. We would like to welcome all new residents to Richmond Township and look forward to meeting you and helping you with any questions or issues you may have. I would also like to welcome all of our new Amish friends and neighbors. I am asking everyone to please be respectful when traveling our roads and to keep a watchful eye for their horse and buggies.

Volunteers needed!! Our volunteer fire departments and ambulance services are in need of your help. If any of you are interested and able to help in any way, fashion or form, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with the appropriate person.

The township is also in need of volunteers for our REC Board, Athletic Board and Planning Commission. These are all very important positions that help keep our community healthy and growing. Please call me if you are willing to help out. You'll find it to be a fun and rewarding experience!

In closing, like it or not, winter is coming. Here are a couple things that you can do to help us do our job. First and foremost, please do not park in the road. It is very difficult, sometimes impossible, to plow snow around vehicles parked on the road. Second, please do not plow snow across the road when plowing your driveway. These are both illegal by PA state law. Charlie and John thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I want to thank everyone who helps out, volunteers and works so hard to make Richmond Township a great place to live. As always, it is my pleasure working for all of you.

Don James, Chairman
(814) 398-4214

Richmond Township Residents:

It has sure been a good hot summer. With the lack of rain, Charlie and John have the roads looking good to go into fall and winter. They will be doing some final touch ups and getting the trucks ready for winter in the next couple of months.

As always the Easter Egg Hunt in April was a success. The second annual Halloween Trunk or Treat will be October 27th from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Our

volunteers are what make these activities a success and I thank you all for everything you do.

We are still having some issues with people not getting the necessary building or septic permits. Some folks think we are picking on them when we have the inspectors visit them. As a township, we must follow the requirements of the state enacted Uniform Construction Code. This code is a way to assure the construction is safe for occupancy. It does not make any difference who you are or what your financial situation is, everyone must comply. If you are building or moving a mobile home onto a lot, please check on the permits before you start. It's the right thing to do and may save you headaches and time in the long run.

As winter approaches, I hope this one is as mild as last year! Be safe everyone!

Glenn Sharpe, Supervisor
(814) 720-5741

Hello Friends and Fellow Residents,

I hope all of our residents have been enjoying this beautiful summer as I know my family and I have. It's hard to believe summer has flown by so fast and Fall is knocking on our door.

We were able to successfully tackle numerous summer projects this year, ranging from ditching and grading to mowing, thanks to the great weather. Thanks to the ACT 13 Grant, we were able to have the Richmond Township Walking Trail repaired and sealed to help extend its life for our residents to utilize. That grant also enabled us to pour concrete pads for the picnic pavilions, create a driveway for improved access to those pavilions as well as an improved entry way for handicapped access to the REC Building. I would also like to thank everyone who helped us

refurbish the front of the older garage building at the Richmond Recreation Grounds. We spent three days, with the help of some dedicated residents, removing the old doors and restructuring the frame to allow installation of two new steel sliding doors. This was a much needed project as the old doors were cumbersome and made entry to the building almost impossible. If you are driving or stopping by, please take a minute to observe those improvements.

As you all know, with the extended beautiful weather, there comes the negative impact of DUST. We have tried our best to keep up with the brining of our roads but brine has been in short supply this year with the gas industry flattening out. The brine we have been getting is also not the greatest quality therefore requiring multiple layers to successfully minimize the dust.

Don, Glenn and I had the pleasure of attending the August Steuben Township meeting and we were pleased to be able to coordinate maintaining a few of our bordering roads by working together. We look forward to working with our neighboring townships in the future, as well.

As my first year as Supervisor is under my belt, I would like to thank everyone in our Township for their continued support throughout the remainder of the year.

Bryan Morton, Supervisor
(814) 967-2114

FROM YOUR ROAD CREW

Greetings everyone:

It's hard to believe that it's fall already! It's been a long, dry summer. Thanks to the great weather, we were able to change out some cross pipes and install some driveway pipes along with adding gravel where needed, grading, berming and mowing.

Our roads are in good shape as we head into winter.

One of our biggest problems this summer was the dust and the availability of brine, or perhaps I should say the lack of brine. What we got when we could get it this year just wasn't enough without some rain to help.

The grant we received from the Conservation District earlier this year for North Richmond Road will be revised and that work now will not start until June of 2017. Unfortunately, the permit for that work was not issued until early October, which puts us too close to cold weather to risk starting the project now.

With winter approaching, we will be getting equipment ready for snow removal and taking care of any issues that arise to make sure we're ready to handle what Mother Nature throws our way. Let's hope that we have an easy winter similar to the one we had last year.

Please call the township Building at (814) 967-3822 and leave a message regarding any issues with the roads. John and I will do our best to take care of things as soon as we can.

As always, be alert, be safe and slow down!
Thank you.

Charlie Hartman
John Flaugh
(814) 967-3822

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Hello Neighbors and Friends,

The Richmond Township Planning Commission volunteer members are Gary Coburn, Mike Lokuta, Don Meyer, Tom Morgan, John Lawrence, and Luigi DeFrancesco. The scheduled meetings are held the last Monday of the month at the township office on 408.

Any resident thinking of selling a parcel of land in Crawford County needs to remember that the county has enacted a UPI ordinance. This is a Uniform Parcel Identifier. This requires that every document recorded with the county recorder of deeds has to have a UPI certified by the county assessment office. This can take up to 3 days, and there is a \$20.00 fee involved. Please be sure to contact the county assessment office for any clarification at (814) 333-7302.

We are continuing to work with the supervisors trying to streamline our existing ordinances as needed. Please remember, when considering a building project, to contact the township office with any questions. Thank you.

John Lawrence, Chairman
(814) 398-8101

FROM THE REC BOARD

Hello All:

We have had another successful spring and summer season in Richmond Township. Ball parks and picnic shelters were full. Clean-up day in May was a little rainy, but many volunteers, new and old, showed up to help, and we got a lot done. A great deal of inside painting was done on the interior of the Rec. Building, and everyone was amazed and excited at the difference. Outside work was also accomplished in between the raindrops. A very big thanks to all who came out and helped. There is always good food and snacks, and lots of comradery.

Memorial Day service is always a special event in Richmond. Thanks to all who made it so special - Ray Crocker, Rev. Harry Zurasky, Alan and Ruth Amy, Shawn Amy, Carrie Szermeta, and special thanks to Allison Mattis for sharing her wonderful musical talents. We are so

blessed to have these people in our community. Thanks to all who attended and contributed in any way to this day of tribute.

Thanks to the Supervisors and John Lawrence for getting the picnic shelters cemented and the walking trail sealed. Also, notice the new doors on the large outside garage building. It took some volunteer ingenuity to get those replaced. Many thanks to all who helped in that effort. The next planned improvement will be a new vinyl fence in front of the Rec Building.

Our second annual Trunk or Treat will be held Thursday, October 27th from 6 pm until 8 pm in the parking lot at the Rec Center. Township residents are welcome to participate by distributing candy and treats from the trunk of their car to trick or treaters. Participants are also encouraged to dress up and to decorate their vehicles. Everyone enjoyed this event last year and we expect it to be bigger and better this year, rain or shine! We look forward to seeing you there!

Scott Wheelock, President
(814) 967-4319

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

JOHN BROWN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The John Brown Heritage Association is a private, nonprofit organization with origins stemming from 1916. It owns the site in the village of New Richmond (Crawford County) PA where John Brown established his tannery in 1826. JBHA keeps the site open year round for the public to visit at no charge.

The JBHA seeks to preserve the historic site and the tannery remnants there and to interpret Brown's life and times in relation to the antislavery movement, U.S. History and the expansion of human freedom.

The John Brown Heritage Association welcomes membership support from individuals and organizations. If you wish to join the JBHA, renew your annual membership or make a gift, please send a check payable to John Brown Heritage Society, c/o Secretary Ed Edinger, 291 Park Avenue, Meadville, PA 16335. Support is important and appreciated, as these are the only sources of operating funds.

For more information, please write to the above address or telephone [\(814\) 724-8625](tel:8147248625) or E-mail: peter5@zoominternet.net

WCJ RANCH

WCJ Ranch, located in Richmond Township, is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for disabled vets and children to hunt and fish.

This past spring and summer we took 25 veterans out of the V.A. Hospital on two fishing outings. We also rebuilt a ground blind and put in a 60 x 8 ft. bridge into the back woods.

We also planted food plots into clover. We did four outreach cases to help veterans and supported the Cambridge Springs Fire Department in celebrating their town's 150 year celebration.

This fall and winter we will be taking disabled veterans out to hunt through hunting seasons from October - January.

Charles E. Schmitz, President
(814) 724-1930

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Tom Sonntag
BIU
Office: (814) 860-8044
Cell: (814) 460-0251

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**DOOR TO DOOR
TRICK OR TREAT HOURS
Thursday, October 27th
6 pm until 7 pm**

**TRUNK OR TREAT
Thursday, October 27th
REC Center Parking Lot
6 pm until 8 pm**

**ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8th
7AM until 8 PM
REC Building**