

Richmond Township

INFORMER

SPRING 2017

richmondtp@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

Glenn Sharpe, Chairman
Don James
Bryan Morton

SECRETARY

Rhonda Phillips

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mary Worley

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
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 fellow residents:

It has been another mild winter. As you know, we had a lot of rain that caused washouts on some of our roads along with the ditches. We've managed some temporary repairs and are working on a plan and schedule to fix these issues as soon as possible. The money we have saved from the mild winter will be put toward road repairs.

Bryan, Don and I have worked together to make sure we get the most out of our budget without overspending. Charlie and John have kept up on the maintenance of all the equipment. That has absolutely saved us money as a little oil and grease is cheaper than parts and labor for major repairs or new equipment.

This will be a very busy summer with all the road work that has to be done. The Good Lord willing, we won't have a lot of rain to hinder that work.

Please keep in mind that April 29th is the township cleanup day and May 13th is the Rec. facility cleanup day. If anyone would like to volunteer for any of these events, your help would be greatly appreciated. And you will have a good time.

I thank you for putting your trust in me as a supervisor to do the right thing with your tax dollars. I know Bryan, Don and I will do everything we can to make Richmond Township better. Thank you.

Glenn Sharpe, Chairman
(814) 720-5741

Hello Everyone:

I certainly hope that all is well with everyone. We have made it through another winter and Spring has finally arrived. Once again, our roads are showing signs of disrepair brought on by this winter's cycle of freezing and thawing, freezing and thawing. This has caused problems with all roads in the county, paved and gravel. Please have patience with us and our road crew as we work on the worst areas first and work to get all of our roads back in shape. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate and give us some dry, sunny days to do so.

I'd like to bring something to your attention. As we all know, in Pennsylvania we pay a very high tax on our fuel (58 cents per gallon). The intent of this tax was to fund road work in our state. Under our state constitution, motorist fees and fuel taxes are strictly for highway construction, repair and safety. Townships benefit from and use these allocated funds for many of our road projects. Unfortunately, millions of dollars in highway construction funding is being diverted unconstitutionally to fund the Pennsylvania State Police. Last year alone, Gov. Wolf and lawmakers approved \$755 million in highway funds for the PSP. That's wrong!

In addition, Gov. Wolf wants to enact a \$25 per person fee to townships/boroughs that do not have a local police department and rely on the state police. The reasoning is that townships without a local police force are getting "free" state police coverage. Given that we all pay

Pennsylvania state taxes, I believe that this is an unfair statement as well as an unfair solution to a problem created by the government exceeding its budget. In addition, the state will bill the townships, not the individuals, for this \$25 per person fee. By doing so, the state avoids responsibility for raising taxes, putting that burden on the township.

I'm asking all of you to contact your state representatives and ask them to put a stop to this unconstitutional use of road funds for the PSP and to vote against the enactment of a \$25 per capita fee for townships that do not have their own police force. More taxes and more spending won't solve the problem.

Thank you for your continued support of Richmond Township. As always, it is my pleasure serving as your Supervisor.

Don James, Supervisor
814-398-4214

Hello Friends and Fellow Residents:

Well, Spring is here and knocking on our front door and we can be thankful once again that we have endured another mild winter compared to the past. Unfortunately, with the good days, we have also had some bad with unexpected freezing and thawing. These temperature changes play a major role in how we maintain our roads. If not properly addressed, this can cause more damage than good. Warm, dry days are needed to get the frost out of the roads before we put heavy equipment on them. We apologize in advance but also ask for your patience as we tackle the road repairs.

It is hard to believe Spring is here and Summer is right around the corner, which will result in some busy summer projects. Once again I am excited for a

positive and challenging year as we tackle the North Richmond road project. We have been working hard behind the scenes, meeting to discuss the execution of this project and feel we have a strong plan to finish this over the summer.

Please remember that our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be taking place at the Richmond Township Recreation Complex on April 8th at 10:00am. Please bring your children or grandchildren out for some fun. Rumor has it the Easter Bunny is going to make a surprise visit.

On another positive note, Don, Glenn and I have been working on strengthening our Township structure by revising numerous permits and employee guidelines to help us better manage the Township. We feel these minor changes will help increase the communication between the Supervisors, Richmond Township employees and the Richmond Township residents.

Once again I am thankful to serve our Township as one of the Richmond Township Supervisors and would like to thank everyone in our Township for their continued support throughout the remainder of the year. Regards,

Bryan Morton, Supervisor
(814) 967-2114

FROM YOUR ROAD CREW

To all in Richmond Township:

It has been a pretty mild winter but another crazy one with the freeze and thaw about every other week. We kept on top of things the best we could with what we have available to us.

We have already been on some roads with the grader and some gravel to fix potholes. Other roads are still rough and will be dealt with as we can. Everyone please be patient, we will be there as soon as we can.

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 possible.

Please slow down, be safe and respectful on the roads. Thank you.

Charlie Hartman
John Flaugh

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Fellow residents:

Members of the Richmond Township Planning Commission are Mike Lokuta, Gary Coburn, Don Myers, Luigi DeFrancesco, Tom Morgan, and John Lawrence. The monthly meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at the township office at 7pm.

We are continuing to work with our board of supervisors to try and upgrade our ordinances in an effort to make them more current and user friendly. They can be viewed on the township website at www.richmondtownshipcc.com.

We urge all township residents to take advantage of the upcoming spring cleanup on Saturday, April 29th. Volunteers will be at the Township Garage from 8 am until 3 pm and will unload your vehicle for you.

Finally, when considering a building project, please remember to contact the township office with any questions. Thank you

John Lawrence, Chairman
(814) 398-8101

WEBSITE

www.richmondtownshipcc.com

FROM THE REC BOARD

Hello all:

Our second annual Trunk or Treat last October went very well in spite of the weather. I want to thank all the “trunkers” who gave out candy from their vehicles. I also want to thank all of the “treaters” and their families who braved the weather to trick or treat. There were a lot of great costumes! This is an event we hope to repeat for many years to come.

Our first event this Spring will be the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th. There will be activities and egg hunts for children of all ages beginning at 10 am. Please join us, rain or shine. I’m sure everyone, kids and adults alike, will enjoy themselves! Many thanks to co-sponsor Southern Care from Meadville for their time and effort as well as Brian’s Country Market, Dave’s Place and Stanford Farms for their donations that help make this a great event.

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming township events. **Saturday, April 29th** - Township Clean-up Day (Dumpster Day) from 8am until 3 pm.

Saturday, May 13th – Rec Center Clean Up starting at 8 am.

Monday, May 29th – Memorial Day Service beginning at 10 am.

All of our events are staffed by volunteers, whom we greatly appreciate. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these events, please call me at 814-967-4319. Additional help is always appreciated. Plus you’ll make new friends and have a great time.

And finally, I want to remind everyone that the Rec building and the picnic shelters are available to rent for parties, reunions and picnics. Rental rates are \$30 for the shelters and \$50 for the building. You can call Dave at 814-967-3551 to schedule your event. Just a

reminder that use of any of the Rec facilities is “at your own risk.”

I want to thank everyone for your continued support of the Rec Board.

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

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

WCJ RANCH

W.C.J. Ranch is a non profit, regulated hunting reserve in Richmond Township, Crawford County, PA, that offers disabled hunters opportunities to enjoy the sport.

In 2016, we logged 2,047 volunteer hours and accomplished the following: built a 60 x 8 foot bridge in the back woods; rebuilt a 20 x 8 ground blind; put up a 17 foot RedNeck hunting tower; planted 3 clover food plots; and cleaned trails.

Over the fall and winter, we had 276 visits and 85 hunts. We also gave \$50 Christmas gift cards to five veterans in the Hospice Unit at Erie V.A. and did outreach for two younger veterans.

In 2016, we also had our second summer fishing outing for 12 veterans from Erie V.A. Hospice. In 2017, we will be fishing in July and August.

Anyone interested in more information about WCJ Ranch and our work with disabled hunters and veterans can call 814-724-1930.

Thank you.

***Charles E. Schmitz - President
Shawn E. Schmitz - Vice
President***

E-MAIL

richmondtp@windstream.net

TAX COLLECTOR HOURS FOR SPRING 2017

Tuesdays
March 3 through April 18
11 am – 3 pm

Wednesdays
March 8 through April 26
4 pm – 7 pm

April 20, 27 and 28
11 am until 3 pm

Kathleen Wheelock
(814) 967-4319

BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

SEWAGE OFFICER

Michael Rinkevich
(814) 873-4294

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 8

10 am

Township REC Building

TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 29

8 am until 3 pm

Township Office/Garage

REC FACILITY CLEAN UP

Saturday, May 13

8 am

Township REC Building

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, May 16

7 am until 8 pm

Township REC Building

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 29

10 am

Township REC Building