



## Township Manager Retires After 31 Years

After 31 impressive years on the job as Township Manager and the Secretary-Treasurer, Aaron Hook retired January 31, 2010. Aaron joined Bushkill Township in 1979 as a part-time employee, was appointed to Secretary-Treasurer, and eventually became the Township Manager in 2001. Through the years, Aaron watched the Township triple in population, during which time he championed the development of the Township Recreation Complex, reestablished the Township Environmental Advisory Council, and oversaw the general growth and management of the Township. Aaron also steered Bushkill Township in the right direction during the formation and later dissolution of the Bushkill Lower Lehigh Sewer Authority which would have greatly altered the present character of our beautiful Township.

In addition, Aaron was actively involved with the Pennsylvania Local Governmental Secretaries Association, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, Northampton County Association of Township Officials, First Regional Compost Authority and other committees and boards, which greatly benefited our Township and County, as well as many others all across the Commonwealth.

In October of 2009, the Board of Supervisors appointed Brian Harris to succeed Aaron. Brian spent the final months of Aaron's tenure transitioning into the position before taking over full-time on January 1, 2010. The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors, staff, and committees wish Aaron and his family a safe and happy retirement, and to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the Township.

## 2010 Ordinance Update

The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors adopted ordinances throughout the year which may affect residential homeowners. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 4, 2010 the House Numbering Ordinance was adopted. The ordinance requires that all residential structures have signs with 4" high white reflective numbers on a green 6"x 18" reflective placard. The signs are required to be placed on the same side of the public street as the dwelling unit at a location where the driveway and cartway intersect. The ordinance was adopted to assist emergency services personnel in locating properties during critical times of emergency.

Ordinance 2010-03 was adopted April 1, 2010 and governs the Municipal Management of On-Lot Subsurface Sewage Disposal Facilities. The ordinance requires all individual sewage systems installed after the effective date of the ordinance pump the tank once every three years or whenever an inspection reveals that the septic tank is filled with solids. Receipts from the pumper/hauler shall be submitted to the Township within the pumping periods. Although it is not required by ordinance, existing septic tanks are encouraged to pump out solids on a similar basis.

Ordinance 2010-06 was adopted June 3, 2010 and establishes standards for the regulation and use of Outdoor Solid Fuel Burning Appliances. Any appliances to be installed require a zoning permit and must meet the specifications outlined in the ordinance. Some of the specifications include types of units that may be installed, one acre minimum lot size, setbacks of 75' from all property lines, stack height requirement and new units must be installed on a 6" concrete pad. Existing outdoor burning units are required to meet the stack height restrictions specified in the ordinance. All outdoor solid fuel burning appliances can only be operated between September 15 and May 15, annually.

Full copies of all ordinances can be obtained by contacting Bushkill Township or [www.bushkilltownship.com](http://www.bushkilltownship.com).

### Board of Supervisors

Brien Kocher, Chairman  
Cliff Bonney, Vice Chairman  
Julie Bender  
Jason Smith  
Howard Kostenbader

Brian Harris, Secretary –Treasurer  
Gary N. Asteak, Solicitor  
Robert L. Collura, Engineer

## 2010 Open Space Acquisitions

The Bushkill Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has been busy working on acquiring conservation easements and open space. As township residents voted to support, 0.25% of the local earned income tax is designated and dedicated for Open Space funding to purchasing conservation easements and acquiring open space lands throughout the Township. In 2005, Bushkill Township adopted an Official Map which designated woodland areas along streams as a high priority for preservation. In 2007, the Township developed an Open Space Plan which called for preservation of agricultural lands and remaining natural areas using the local Open Space funding (along with matching funds from outside sources when available). Protection of natural areas along streams, or greenway areas, should best protect water quality, wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, and local “quality of life.” Planning alternatives for preservation and protection of all mapped areas include voluntary conservation easements and land acquisition.

During 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved \$609,000 in expenditures in an aggressive campaign to acquire development rights (in the form of conservation easements) on an additional 201 acres throughout the Township. Lands preserved included a conservation easement on a 101-acre farm located on Keller Road. The residents purchased the farm in 1942 and have resided on the premises for the past 68 years. Thanks to them, the tract will remain undeveloped into perpetuity, helping to preserve the character and farming heritage of Bushkill Township for future generations! Other significant acquisitions included a conservation easement on a 94 acre farm located along Kromer Road. Thanks to these residents, another valuable tract of farmland will remain undeveloped. An additional 83 acres are currently being surveyed and will eventually be eased to the Township for permanent preservation. To date, there are over 250 acres preserved throughout the Township using our own Open Space funding.

Any property owner considering granting an easement is encouraged to contact Bushkill Township for more details on the program.

## History Book Becomes A Reality

Thanks to many individuals, the History of Bushkill Township has become a reality. James A. Wright, the author, taught American history for the Nazareth Area School District for 35 years before retiring. He educated his students about local history and shared artifacts from his personal collection in the classroom. Before writing the History of Bushkill Township, Wright authored histories of Forks and Palmer Townships and contributed a regular history column to The Express-Times. He also wrote Nazareth’s Company A, 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War with Kim Kromer; Place Names of Northampton County, Pennsylvania with Linda Wright; History of the First United Church of Christ of Easton, Pennsylvania 1745-2004; Colonial Taverns of Northampton County, Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania’s Indian Leaders: Biographies of Native American Leadership in Early Pennsylvania; and a collection of Looking Back articles about the Civil War published by the Northampton Historical Society.

Wright lived in Bushkill Township before he passed on October 24, 2008, at age 61. Wright was married to the former Linda L. Ward for 38 years. They have a son and daughter and two grandchildren. In December 2008, Willard Werkheiser, a long-time township resident who initiated and funded this project, and Aaron Hook, who retired in January 2010 after serving 31 years as Bushkill Township Manager, hired Alyssa Colonna Young to edit the book and arrange for publication. Young, one of Wright’s former students at Nazareth Area High School, is also a township resident and works as Assistant Managing Editor/Online at The Express-Times.

*Stock of a Henry Rifle manufactured at the Henry Gun Factory which was located in the southeastern corner of Bushkill Township, presently managed by the Jacobsburg Historical Society which focuses on the preservation of early gun making heritage of the site.*



# First Regional Compost Authority

Bushkill Township residents are reminded that they can drop off their yard waste at the municipal garage located at 897 Clearfield Road. Accepted items include leaves, small brush, trimmings, plantings and Christmas trees. Residents are required to show proof of residency along with the required permit. Permits can be obtained from the municipal building located at 1114 Bushkill Center Road.

The First Regional Compost Authority (FRCA) main facility is also open to residents to drop-off brush, wood, wood chips, leaves and grass clippings (certain rules apply) at the Central Processing Center, 6701 Weaversville Road, Northampton Borough. The FRCA is governed by 5 local townships and was originally formed to recycle yard waste.

## 2011 Bushkill Township Yard Waste Drop Off Dates—Saturdays 8:00am—12:00pm



March 19  
March 26  
April 9  
April 16  
April 30  
May 14  
May 21  
June 4  
June 11

July 9  
July 23  
August 6  
August 20  
September 24  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
November 5  
November 19

*For additional information  
please contact the Director of  
Public Works at 610.759.2758.*



### Applications Now Available for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Forms for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program for calendar year 2010 are now available at my district office.

Eligible participants can receive a rebate of up to \$650 based on their rent or property taxes paid in 2010. The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 years or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with disabilities.

Eligibility income limits for homeowners are set at the following levels, excluding 50 percent of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits:

- \$0 to \$8,000, maximum \$650 rebate (Homeowners and renters)
- \$8,001 to \$15,000, maximum \$500 rebate (Homeowners and renters)
- \$15,001 to \$18,000, maximum \$300 rebate (Homeowners only)
- \$18,001 to \$35,000, maximum \$250 rebate (Homeowners only)

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program is one of many initiatives supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery, which dedicates its proceeds to support programs for older Pennsylvanians. Since the program began in 1971, more than \$4 billion has been paid to qualified applicants.

Please remember to provide all the necessary income, property tax or rental information required in order to process claims quickly and accurately. Applications are due by June 30. Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms are available by contacting my office at 610.746.2100 or by visiting my website at [www.RepHahn.com](http://www.RepHahn.com).

## Clean-Up Day—May 6 & 7

The 2011 Clean-up Day will be held on Friday, May 6, 8:00am to 3:00pm & Saturday, May 7, 7:00am to 12:00pm.

Bushkill Township has hosted an annual Clean-up Day for residents for several years. In the past it had been held at a location outside of the Township. As a convenience to our residents, the location has been changed to within the Township and is now at the Lucas Lane Recreation Field Parking Lot.

The following is a small list of items that will be accepted: White Goods ~ Metal Goods ~ General Trash ~ Wood Materials & Tires will be accepted for a FEE.

### Items NOT Accepted :

**Paint, Batteries, Chemicals (of any kind), TV's, Computers and Printers.**

If you have questions regarding Clean-up Day, please feel free to contact the office staff @ 610.759.1250.

### Tire Rates:

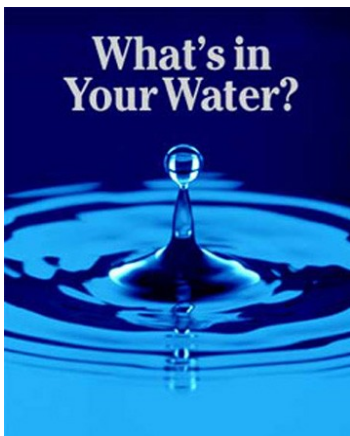
Car Tire (NO Rim) ~ \$3 per tire

Car Tire (Rim) ~ \$5 per tire

Truck Tire (NO Rim) ~ \$11 per tire

Truck Tire (Rim) ~ \$15 per tire

Tires larger than a Pick-up Truck Tire ~ \$20 per tire



## Green-Up Day—May 7

In conjunction with the Clean-Up Day, the Bushkill Environmental Advisory Council will be sponsoring a booth at the Clean-Up Day on May 7. From 8:00am – 1:00pm, the EAC will offer township residents information on alternative energy units, water well testing, and rain barrel design and construction.

Water sampling kits will be on sale for \$31. The kit comes with instructions and the lab will choose your drop off date at the municipal building. Representatives from ALSI Laboratory will be present to collect samples on Monday, May 9 or Monday, May 16. The kit tests for bacteria (total coliform and fecal coliform) and nitrates and the confidential test results will be mailed directly to residents.



Most residents in Bushkill Township depend on ground water for their basic drinking water supply. Having a basic understanding about ground water quality will help ensure that your well is supplying potable water for your household. Along with human activities, water quality is affected by a combination of natural processes. Most relate to chemical compositions underground. However, other factors such as biological, physical, and radiological conditions can affect water quality as well.

Public drinking water supplies are required, by law, to be free from microbial pathogens. However, private water systems, while also vulnerable to contamination from bacteria, usually have no governmental oversight. If you rely on a private well, it is your responsibility to ensure the water is safe to drink. You should inspect the condition of your well regularly and test a water sample every one to two years. More frequent testing is recommended when well condition is poor, the well has been inundated with floodwater, the septic system has malfunctioned, abandoned wells or feed yards are located nearby, or visitors have complained of stomach or intestinal distress.

Rain barrels and associated hardware will also be available for residents to purchase. Rain barrels are an excellent way to retain stormwater for future use and minimize the impact on local waterways. If you have questions, please contact the office staff @ 610.759.1250

## Bushkill Township Official Map

The Official Map has traditionally been used as a planning tool for roads and infrastructure (e.g. utility lines, roads, etc.) so that new development would not create undesirable conflicts with the general, common needs of residents. In recent years, however, the Commonwealth added a provision allowing protection of environmental resources which were of the “common wealth” within municipalities.

In 2005, the Township EAC, along with input by local land conservancies, our Planning Commission, and our Board of Supervisors, determined that the common thread which made Bushkill Township unique and desirable was our wooded stream valleys and clean surface waters, and that such areas could and should be protected for the benefit of all residents. The streams with the Township are either designated as High Quality Cold Water Fisheries or Exceptional Value waters by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Also worth noting is the fact that the entire Bushkill Creek Watershed is designated for special protection as a Class A Wild Trout Stream by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. A wealth of research and studies has shown that wooded stream buffers are the primary factors in the health of aquatic ecosystems. Therefore, to protect our streams and local “quality of life,” the wood-

lands along our streams were added to the Official Map for protection.

So...how does it work? Simple. The Official Map provides the Township with a full year from the time of plan submission to negotiate with landowners, developers, etc., who proposed land development, to preserve and protect mapped features to the satisfaction of the Township. Compliance in adequately protecting features shown on the Official Map may be voluntary and/or may be gained through participation in the Township’s Open Space Program, whereby desirable woodlands may be purchased rather than developed. Protection of mapped woodlands is generally property specific and may be accomplished in various ways. The primary goal in dealing with development on properties which include mapped woodlands is to “avoid and minimize impacts to the extent practicable,” similar in fashion to wetland regulations. Methods for accomplishing this are largely negotiable. Landowners and developers are encouraged to meet with the Township prior to entering into detailed design, but they may also simply submit subdivision and land development plans which accomplish the intended goals for official review by the Township. Regardless of upfront planning, the final plans must be consistent with the intended goals.

## The Bushkill Township Police Department



The Bushkill Township Police Department operates 24 hours a day—7 days a week. A significant amount of time is spent patrolling the Township in an effort to deter and reduce criminal activity. The Township responds to over 5,000 calls for service annually. The men and women of the Police Department are trained and certified in various aspects of law enforcement.

In addition, the Township has a certified K9 Officer who commands a German Sheppard, named Havoc, for the use of narcotics detection, tracking of suspects or missing persons, and for general officer protection. Havoc is an integral part of the Department and has also assisted other municipalities and the Northampton County Drug Task Force.



The Department is led by Chief Stanley Coopersmith, who has been with the Department since 1971. Chief Coopersmith has seen the Township transform over the past four decades and has been integral in the growth and professional development of the Department. In absence of Chief Coopersmith, Captain Michael McLouth has the responsibility of running the Department.

**Phone: 610.759.9588**

# Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

---

The 1,168-acre Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, located entirely within Bushkill Township, offers programs for pre-schoolers through college students. Center staff also provide community programs on many subjects like natural and cultural history and outdoor recreation. The 1,168-acre Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center offers programs for pre-schoolers through college students. Center staff also provide community programs on many subjects like natural and cultural history and outdoor recreation. The famous Henry Rifle was once made here. The Jacobsburg National Historic District lies almost entirely within the center property and gives visitors insight into a colonial gun manufactory.

Visitors also enjoy Henry's Woods, an old growth forest surrounding Bushkill Creek and laced with hiking trails. Jacobsburg is a partner in the Lehigh Valley Greenway, which seeks to engage state and local governments and non-profit conservation groups to promote land conservation and education.

## Summer Events At Jacobsburg

### Earth Day at Jacobsburg

**Saturday, April 23 ~ 10:00am-3:00pm**

Join us to celebrate Earth Day! Participate in one of the stewardship projects. Invasive plant removal, native species planting, butterfly garden cleanup and much more. Also, hikes, critter search and children's activities.



### Kayaking the Lehigh River

**Saturday, May 7 ~ 9:00 am-1:00 pm**

Join us as we kayak the beautiful lower reaches of the Lehigh River. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Neotropical birds returning from their wintering grounds in Central and South America. Trash bags and work gloves will be provided so participants can help clean up this special area. Bring binoculars and a lunch.



### Building a Backyard Habitat: An Audubon At Home Workshop

**Tuesday, May 24 ~ 6:00pm-8:00pm**

Is it possible to create a beautiful home landscape and connect to nature at the same time? In this presentation, you will learn that it is possible and that it can be beneficial to birds, babies, and even bank accounts! Native plants in your landscape will require less maintenance, water, and pesticides. You will learn how our communities play a critical role in the Blue Mountain Important Bird Area (IBA) and how the Township can become an official "Bird Town."

To register for programs, contact Bill Sweeney at [wisweeney@state.pa.us](mailto:wisweeney@state.pa.us) or 610.746.2808. For a complete list of events please visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>.



## Jacobsburg Historical Society

### MUSEUM HOURS

*Open May 1st through October 30th 2011*

#### **John Joseph Henry House Museum & Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop**

*Sunday, May 1, Noon - 4 p.m., Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~ Sunday, June 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, July 17, Noon - 4 p.m., Sunday, August 14, Noon - 4 p.m., Sunday, September 18, Noon - 4 p.m., Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~ Sunday, October 30, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

### SPECIAL EVENTS AND CLASSES

*Seed Starting ~ Garden Class ~ Sat., March 19, 10 a.m. - Noon ~ Henry House Gardens*

*Plant Propagation ~ Garden Class ~ Sat, April 16, 10 a.m. - Noon ~ Henry House Gardens*

***Spring Clean Up** ~ Sat, April 16 ~ Start at 9:00 a.m. ~ Meet House Circle Drive*

*Member & Volunteer Info Workshop ~ Sat., April 30, 1 - 3:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Longrifle Museum*

***Season Opening** ~ Sun., May 1, Noon to 4 p.m. ~ All Museums Open*

*Plant Sale Fundraiser ~ Sat., May 7, 9 a.m. - Noon ~ Side Lawn, Henry House*

***Rifle Frolic** ~ Sat. June 18, 10 - 4 p.m., Sun. June 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~ All Museums*

***Fur Trade Rendezvous** Sat. Oct. 29, 10 - 4 p.m. , Sun. Oct. 30, 10 - 4 p.m. ~ All Museums*

*JHS Annual Meeting ~ Thursday, November 10, 5:30 p.m. ~ Green Pond Country Club*

*Wreath Making Class ~ TBD ~ Boulton Education Center (barn on Schoeneck Ave)*

***Christmas at Boulton** ~ Saturday, December 10, 11 - 3 p.m. ~ All Museums*

*Powder Horn Building Class ~ Saturdays in January*

*Pennsylvania Longrifle Class ~ Ten Saturdays beginning in March*

*Leather Hunting Bag Class - TBD*



**JACOBSBURG  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

*The Boulton Historic Site is located at 402 & 403 Henry Road, Nazareth PA 18064. For more info contact the Jacobsburg Historical Society at 610-759-9029 or visit us at [www.jacobsburg.com](http://www.jacobsburg.com) .*

**[www.btvfc.com](http://www.btvfc.com)**

The Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company was established in 1958 by a handful of concerned residents. Today, the Company consists of four strong divisions including Fire, EMS, Fire Police and Ladies Auxiliary. The volunteer fire company responds to about 300 Fire / Rescue calls and 600 EMS calls on an annual basis. The fire company provides around the clock protection 365 days a year. Individuals interested in obtaining additional information should contact the Fire Company at 610.759.2274 or visit [www.btvfc.com](http://www.btvfc.com).

Please be advised that BINGO is held every Wednesday evening from 5:00pm—10:00pm and the 2011 Carnival will be held July 27—30. Please remember to support your local Fire Company!

## BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Bushkill Township Municipal Bldg.  
1114 Bushkill Center Road  
Nazareth, PA 18064

Phone: 610.759.1250  
Fax: 610.759.8565

For more Township information, visit our website at [www.bushkilltownship.com](http://www.bushkilltownship.com)!!

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

*Inside this Issue: 2011 Clean Up Day, Bushkill Township Open Space Update, Board of Supervisors Happenings, and much more.*

## [www.bushkilltownship.com](http://www.bushkilltownship.com)

Have you checked out the Township website recently? Launched in 2010, the new website provides lots of great information. If you're thinking about relocating to Bushkill Township will provide you with: helpful information and directions; how to obtain a moving permit; information on the school district, the utility companies, trash removal, and recycling; information and links to the local athletic associations, local parks, and cultural resources. The website provides a wealth of information pertaining to land preservation activities and programs within the Township. The Open Space Preservation section not only details this program and provides a downloadable map of the areas the Township is working to preserve, but it also explains the importance of safe drinking water and sewage disposal. This site also provides information on home composting and how you can create wonderful topsoil using your unwanted grass clippings.

The website also provides contact information for the administrative staff, the Bushkill Township Police Department and Fire Company/Emergency Management Services. If you need ideas of what to do for recreation, the website contains articles and information on numerous local opportunities (e.g. the Township Park, Jacobsburg State Park, the Appalachian Trail), along with a link to Lehigh Valley Conference and Tourist Bureau. The site has many more improvements planned for the near future, so please stay tuned!

