

2011 Open Space Acquisitions

The past year was very successful for open space acquisitions throughout Bushkill Township. The township purchased 44 wooded acres, tax parcels G7-5-1C and G7-5-23, both of which adjoin the newly constructed PPL Trail. The PPL Trail, which is currently under construction, will extend from the Keller Road bridge north to State Route 512 and the properties adjoining the trail have been listed as high priority for preservation.

A conservation easement on the majority of the 32 acre Beste Farm located off of Jacobsburg Road was secured in 2011. The property is owned by Fred and Polly Beste and the conservation easement will preserve the 200-year-old woodlands adjoining the east branch of Sobers Run.

Thanks to Thomas Eschenbach and his brother Robert Eschenbach, 141 Baron Road, an additional 17 acres have been preserved in Bushkill Township along Baron Road! The Eschenbach's donated a 12 acre conservation easement on tax parcel G7- 4 - 6 and a 5 acre conservation easement on tax parcel G7 - 4 - 6. The Eschenbach easement is an important part of preserving the streamside buffer along West Branch Sobers Run.

The Environmental Advisory Council and the Board of Supervisors would like to take this opportunity to thank the landowners that participate in the Open Space program. Any property owners considering a conservation easement are encouraged to contact Bushkill Township for more information.

EAC Member Bill Sweeney Receives Award

Long time Environmental Advisory Council member, William Sweeney, was presented with the Bennett-Merwarth Award for Excellence in Conservation Leadership. The award was presented by the Bushkill Stream Conservancy during their annual picnic on September 17, 2011. Sweeney, who has served as the Program Supervisor for the Environmental Education Center at Jacobsburg State Park since 1999, is the first recipient of this award.



Members of the Bushkill Stream Conservancy named the award after its first two presidents-Jack Bennett and Sandy Merwarth. The award is given to an individual whose vision has guided the formation and growth of the conservancy. Congratulations to Bill for all his hard work and dedication to the Bushkill Stream Conservancy and the Bushkill Township Environmental Advisory Council.

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



PPL Trail Project Update

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2009, the PPL Trail Project is becoming a reality. The township is converting a former railroad right-of-way within the PPL Transmission Line Corridor to a non-motorized recreational trail. The trail will link Jacobsburg State Park to a trailhead located 3 miles north, off of State Route 512. The PPL Corporation donated the utility corridor right-of-way to Bushkill Township. The rail trail is being constructed of modified stone and crushed limestone and will be 10' wide in most areas. Pedestrian footbridges will be installed through wetland areas.

Thanks to funding from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the trail will be completed in 2012 and will be accessible to hikers, joggers, mountain bikers, and nature viewers. Bushkill Township would also like to thank Harry & Phyllis Erhardt for their cooperation to make this project happen. The township purchased land from the Erhardt's for the trailhead parking area located on State Route 512, which will be named in honor of the Erhardt's.



Master Site Plan Project

The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors recognized the need to prepare a plan to enhance the Recreation Complex in order to provide all residents of the township with opportunities for active and passive recreational enjoyment. In 2010 the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded Bushkill Township \$24,000 in funding to prepare a Master Site Plan for the Recreational Complex located off of Bushkill Center Road.

The Recreation Center began with the purchase of 29 acres in 1984 and now consists of 87 acres containing baseball, softball, coach pitch, tee-ball, soccer fields, tennis courts, tot-lots, basketball court, pavilion with picnic facilities, walking trail and fishing pond. Through analysis of the site and the community's needs, the plan endeavors to establish a program that meets the needs of the community both now and in the future, through both active and passive recreational opportunities. The anticipated plan completion date is 2012.



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. www.frcaweb.org/.

2012 Bushkill Township Yard Waste Drop Off Dates—Saturdays 8:00am—12:00pm



March 10
March 24
April 14
April 21
April 28
May 12
May 19
June 2
June 16
June 23
July 7

July 21
August 4
August 18
August 25
September 8
September 22
October 6
October 13
October 20
November 3
November 17

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



Solving Pennsylvania's Jobs Dilemma

It is a chicken-and-egg argument – do we have high unemployment because of our sluggish economy or has the economy slowed because of the lack of jobs? What I do know for certain is the House Labor and Industry Committee is not sitting still and waiting for the answer. During the month of August, the committee, chaired by state Rep. Ron Miller (R-York County), held a series of hearings on right to work and prevailing wage. These issues have been around for a long time, yet these hearings are the first of their kind in Harrisburg in quite awhile. Right to work statutes currently exist in 22 states. Pennsylvania is not among them. Miller's committee examined House bills 50, 51, 52 and 53. Each piece of legislation would prohibit agreements between labor unions and employers that make membership, payment of union dues, or fees a condition of employment, either before or after hiring. The committee also just sent six prevailing wage bills to the full House for consideration. Prevailing wage is defined as the hourly wage, usual benefits and overtime paid to the majority of workers, laborers, and mechanics within a particular area. While this may seem fairly simple to understand, the debate lies in the manner by which prevailing wage is determined. Chairman Miller has authored House Bill 1367, which would require Pennsylvania's Department of Labor to use the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis in determining prevailing minimum wage rates on a county-by-county basis. Opponents argue that workers wages would be reduced. Miller's contention is that a larger number of people (the Pennsylvania taxpayers) stand to benefit because their tax dollars would in effect be "stretched," thereby allowing us to accomplish things such as addressing our infrastructure (roads, bridges and schools) needs. I'm looking forward to debating this issue on the House floor and examining more thoroughly the effect prevailing wage has on the cost of public projects.

Finding a solution to our unemployment dilemma is not easy. What we do know is no economic recovery will in fact take place unless we find a way to create jobs. That means making our state more attractive to business. Legislation dealing with prevailing wage and right to work figures to be part of the discussion, possibly as early as this fall. I look forward to these and other bills being seriously debated as we move to improve Pennsylvania's business climate.

2012 Clean-Up Days — May 4 & 5

The 2012 Clean-up Days will be held on Friday, May 4th 8:00am to 3:00pm & Saturday, May 5th 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, Printers, Appliances containing Freon (Refrigerators, Air Conditioners, & Dehumidifiers).

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



2012 Green-Up Day—May 5

In conjunction with the Clean-Up Day, the Bushkill Environmental Advisory Council will once again be sponsoring a booth at Clean-Up Day on May 5 from 7:00am –12:00pm. The EAC will offer township residents information on 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 7 or Monday,

May 14. The kit tests for bacteria (total coliform and fecal coliform) and nitrates and the confidential test results will be mailed directly to residents.

Rain barrels and associated hardware are available for residents to purchase through the township. Rain barrels are an excellent way to retain storm water for future use and minimize the impact on local waterways. If you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel or have any questions, please contact the Public Works at 610.759.2758.

2010 Census - Bushkill Township

The 2010 census provided an interesting look at the demographics of Bushkill Township. According to the census, the population in the township increased 17% from the prior census to 8,178 persons. The last census was conducted in 2000 and the population was 6,980 persons. According to the 2010 census there are 4,118 males and 4,060 females. The median age in the township is 44 years old and the average persons per household is 2.93. The population in Northampton County is 297,735 while Pennsylvania's population is 12,702,379. For more census information, visit www.factfinder2.census.gov.

2011 Paving Projects

Through the summer months the Bushkill Township Public Works Department was busy repairing many of the Township roads. In June, the department used 76 tons of Hot Patch and repaired spots on Old Grade Road, Levis Road, Cherry Wood Drive, and Golden Eagle Drive & replaced the pipe at Fehr Road & Rose Inn Avenue. Also in June, with the help of Muschlitz Excavating and Upper Nazareth Township, the Public Works Department milled and paved portions of Rose Inn Avenue as well as Fehr Road (up to but not including Jacobsburg Road) using 317 tons of Base Course. In July, the Township Public Works Department, repaired sections on Rohn Drive, Beaver Run, Creamery Road, Ruth Road, Johnson Road, Schoeneck Avenue and Muschlitz Road. In August, while met with the usual hot days of summer and endless days of rain the department was able to work on Firehouse Lane and again with the help of Muschlitz Excavating milled and paved Schoeneck Avenue. While there are still a lot of roads to be repaired the paving and hot patching is done for the season and will resume in June 2012. The Township Public Works Department is in the process of preparing for the winter by servicing the plows and readying for the call of “Cold, Ice and Snow”.



Emergency Operations and Preparedness

The current record setting year has certainly offered its challenges for the emergency responders of Bushkill Township. Earthquakes, hurricanes, tropical storms and the ongoing flooding has prompted escalating calls for emergency response to meet the immediate needs of the residents. As a result of Hurricane Irene, the Township Emergency Operations Center was activated on Sunday morning and continued to operate into Sunday evening. During that time, numerous calls for trees down across roadways, flooding, cellar pumping details, and water rescues filled the hours as responders struggled to meet the needs of the residents.

Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Responders, Fire Police, Police Officers, Public Works staff and others offered to assist and provide service to those in need. Priority of service was based on the urgency of the call. Situational awareness and prioritized dispatch was handled by the staff in the Bushkill Township Emergency Operations Center located in the Municipal Building. Throughout the storm, the staff functioned to meet the needs of those who called for help.

As we reflect on the events of our record setting year, clearly the demand for emergency services is ongoing and for the most part continuing to escalate. The terms “emergency preparedness” and “self-sufficiency” take on a new meaning for residents when professional help is delayed or due to circumstances, not coming at all. For the most part, all calls during Irene were eventually serviced by the responders. But one has to question the state of readiness for the individual resident. Are you prepared to be self-sufficient for 72 hours? Regardless of the circumstances, could you and your neighbors survive until professional help could arrive?

Preparedness programs and guides can be found on the PEMA web site at www.pema.state.pa.us or at Ready PA at <http://www.readypa.org>. All of these programs and guides offer solid information as to how you can prepare for emergencies and disasters. Additionally, FEMA offers additional information on their web site at <http://www.fema.gov>. Within this information you will find that the concept of preparedness and neighbor helping neighbor is not new. For those who have a civic mindset and the desire to assist others in their respective neighborhoods, there is a program called Community Emergency Response Teams. Information can be found at <http://www.citizen Corps.gov/cert>.

Clearly, preparedness and response is a community effort. While the professional response community stands ready to meet our resident’s immediate needs, there are times when self-sufficiency is appropriate. Preparedness is everyone’s task. Regardless of the incidents we will face, so long as we work together, outcomes will be positive.

Bushkill Township Police Department Happenings

On October 4, 2011 Corporal David Marino and K9 Officer Joshua Miller were presented with the prestigious “Spirit of Courage” award, sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Health Network—Burn Prevention Foundation. Corporal Marino and Officer Miller were honored for their heroism when they rescued a resident from a burning vehicle in 2010. Officer Marino is a twelve-year veteran of the Bushkill Township Police Force and Officer Miller is a seven-year veteran of the force.

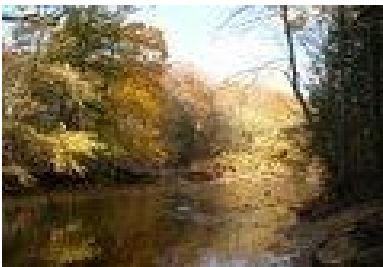


Officer Miller & Havoc



Corporal Marino

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.



Jacobsburg State Park

We survived the recent weather extremes, testing both our visitors and staff. The heat of the summer saw visitors seeking relief in the cool waters of the Bushkill Creek, while the seemingly unending rain had park staff scrambling to repair trails and clear fallen trees. With the season changing, we look to a cool and colorful autumn that will welcome visitors to Jacobsburg.

The resources and facilities at the Center continue to be improved through the efforts of our staff, volunteers and our partners. We recently treated over 700 Eastern Hemlock trees in the Henry’s Woods Special Management Area to deter the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and protect the ecology of the site. This forest pest has had negative impacts on hemlocks throughout the Commonwealth. The management of our native wildflower fields continues to be a priority. These areas provide a diversity of native vegetation attracting birds and butterflies while reducing the impact of invasive species.

Recognizing trail maintenance is always a challenge, local resident, Kathy Grube has assisted in this effort by organizing groups to clear and stabilize problem areas. As always, we welcome any resident who would be interested in volunteering here at Jacobsburg. Recently, DCNR Secretary Rick Allen visited Jacobsburg and met with Bushkill Township officials Brian Harris, Manager and Jason Smith, Supervisor to highlight the partnership between DCNR/ State Parks on the development of the PPL Trail. The Secretary was supportive and pleased with cooperation on the project.

On the education front, township residents can learn about the abundant natural resources in the Township and the greater Lehigh Valley by attending one of many programs offered here at Jacobsburg. Our programs connect you with everything from bats, butterflies and Saw Whet owls to local rivers and old growth forests. You, your friends and family are encouraged to join us during the Fall and Winter program season. New for this upcoming year is a Natural History Series that will introduce you to the natural world found in the Lehigh Valley. We will explore The Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Native Landscaping and Backyard Habitats, Ornithological Gems of the Lehigh Valley, Wildlife Habitat Management and The Kittatinny Ridge. For additional program information and offerings you may contact Bill Sweeney (610) 746-2808 or Rick Wiltraut (610) 746-2801 or visit us on the web at www.dcnr.state.pa.us.

Jacobsburg is right in your backyard! Take time to visit and enjoy your local State Park.



Jacobsburg Historical Society

The Jacobsburg Historical Society is a member supported nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the art and industry of making early American firearms and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise. The Historical Society holds many events throughout the year; some of which are listed below.



Gunsmith Apprentice Programs are offered in the Fall and Spring. The six-week course entails Master Gunsmiths from the society teaching modern hands to craft historic, functional longrifles. The Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum is located in the Henry Family Homestead which is located at 403 Henry Road. The museum is open from 12:00pm-4:00pm every Saturday and Sunday from May through October.

The Historical Society will be offering a course in January on crafting a powder horn. The early American –style powder horn was used to carry gunpowder. For More information regarding the Historical Society go to www.jacobsburg.org/



Fire Company News

The Fire Company supported many of the township residents during Hurricane Irene. During the 24-hour period the volunteer Firefighters, EMS, Fire Police, and Support Staff responded to several hundred calls to pump basements, clear roads, secure down wires and one water rescue call. These dedicated individuals spend countless hours away from their families to ensure the safety of the township residents. Please help by supporting us during the many fundraisers listed below.

Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company holds many fundraisers throughout the year. These fundraisers are:

- Breakfast - the second Sunday of every month from September thru May with Santa in December and the Easter Bunny in the spring
- Bingo - every Wednesday with the doors opening at 5 pm bingo starts at 7 pm with a weekly jackpot of \$1,000
- Car Show - May 5, 2012, with a rain date of May 12, 2012
- 5 weeker - twice a year in April and October
- Ladies Auxiliary Basket Bingo - November 27, 2011
- Pampered Chef Wine and Cheese Party - March 2, 2012

The new addition to the Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company has been started and great progress has been made. On Saturday October 1, 2011 we held a small ground breaking ceremony. President, Allen Smith, spoke a few words as we broke ground.



Individuals interested in volunteering or obtaining additional information should contact the Fire Company at 610.759.2274 or visit www.btvfc.com.

BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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

Phone: 610.759.1250
Fax: 610.759.8565

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For more Township information, visit our website at www.bushkilltownship.com!!

Inside this Issue: 2012 Clean Up Day, Bushkill Township Open Space Update, Board of Supervisors Happenings, and much more.

www.bushkilltownship.com

Bushkill Township continues to work on the website. Launched in 2010, the website provides lots of great information. If you're thinking about relocating to Bushkill Township, the website 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. Full copies of all ordinances can be obtained by contacting Bushkill Township.

Contacts

Municipal Building	610-759-1250
Police Department	610-759-9588
Non Emergency	610-759-2200
Emergency	911
Zoning Office	610-759-7197
Public Works	610-759-2758
State Representative Hahn	610-746-2100
State Senator Browne	610-502-1567
Northampton County	610-559-3100
Pennsylvania DOT	610-871-4100

