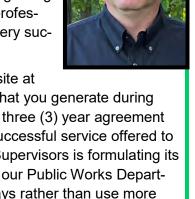
Spring / Summer 2025 Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

by Brien Kocher

As the weather grows warmer and the days grow longer, Bushkill Township is moving along with our 2025 plans and goals. Your Township continues to operate with solid and professional staff and fiscally responsible financial planning. We are looking forward to a very successful and busy 2025.



Our Public Works Department will be continuing to operate the yard waste drop off site at the Public Works garage on Clearfield Road so that you can bring your yard waste that you generate during your spring cleanup operations around your property. The Township just renewed a three (3) year agreement with the First Regional Compost Authority to ensure a continuing operation of this successful service offered to our residents. Our Public Works leadership along with guidance from the Board of Supervisors is formulating its 2025 road paving plan. Most of the road paving on Township roads is performed by our Public Works Department with Township owned equipment, allowing the Township to pave more roadways rather than use more expensive contracting service. Township personnel are also busy constructing our portion of the Two Rivers Trail between Filetown Road and Henry Road. Thanks to receipt of a H2O Grant, we will be proceeding with storm drainage improvements to Keller and Kromer Roads, as well as a large culvert replacement at Knauss and Gower Roads.

In addition to our ongoing successful recreation programs at our recreation complex, construction will soon begin on parking lot improvements and the construction of two (2) pickleball courts in the vicinity of our Lucas Lane entrance. The Township has also received a large grant to cover the cost of security cameras, playground updates, poured in place safety surfaces, and the resurfacing of our basketball court at the Rec Center.

Our Zoning and Administration staff is undertaking a codification of all of our Township Ordinances. The beginning of this two (2) year plan will culminate in producing a single resource for staff and residents to inquire on our Township rules. This code will also be available online at the conclusion of the project for ease of resident's research.

The beginning of 2025 saw a major step in the operation of our Police Department. The Department leadership and entire staff have been undertaking a certification process with the Chiefs of Police Association culminating in our Township Police Department receiving the status of Accredited Law Enforcement Agency. This is a testament to the professional staff of our department and its continuing of updating policies and practices. This accreditation process requires recertification every three (3) years, ensuring the continued professional operation of our department. Congratulations to the Chief, his leadership team, and all of the dedicated Officers.

Our Open Space Department continues to maintain our four (4) open space preserves and continually improve them for your enjoyment of their open space and environmental features. Although the Supervisors have no plans to add any additional public use preserve areas, we will be looking to preserve land and protect our open spaces in accordance with our Township Open Space Plan.



Bushkill Township Police Department

BTPD ACCREDITATION: UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) officially confirmed the Bushkill Township Police Department as an accredited law enforcement agency during its meeting in Harrisburg on January 23, 2025.

To earn this prestigious recognition, the department had to meet or exceed 139 standards along with an additional 242 sub-sections, all of which represent recognized best practices in law enforcement. To meet these standards, a police department must first have a policy in place that addresses all standards and sub-standards. After these policies are in place, the department must then prove it complies with and follows its policies. This is achieved through



proofs of compliance such as police reports, photos, videos, observation and interviews, to name a few. These proofs of compliance must cover the previous 12-month period. The BTPD began this process in January 24' and received its assessment in October 24', taking place over two days by a team of three law enforcement professionals from across the state. Following the assessment, the team submitted their report to PLEAC, and with a positive review, the department was granted accreditation. The department must undergo a reassessment every three years to maintain its accredited status.

Bushkill Township is now part of an exclusive group, with only 16% of police departments in Pennsylvania achieving PLEAC accreditation. Additionally, it is the eleventh department in Northampton County to earn this distinction.

The benefits of accreditation are significant. Financially, accredited agencies often experience reduced liability insurance premiums and lower risks associated with lawsuits. Internally, accreditation fosters a culture of continuous improvement, encouraging problem-solving and increased employee involvement.

Importantly, accreditation strengthens the department's relationship with the community by enhancing transparency, accountability, and the ability to deliver effective services.

Ultimately, the most profound benefit of achieving accreditation is the confirmation that the Bushkill Township Police Department is fully committed to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in service to the community.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Please join us in celebrating Captain Scott Dempsey and Sergeant Dale Steigerwalt for their 25 years of service with the Bushkill Township Police Department.



BTPD ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF K-9 DARK AND ANNOUNCES NEW HANDLER:

The Bushkill Township Police K-9 Unit was established in 2007 with the support of generous donations from the community and local business partners. Officer Josh Miller has served as a K-9 handler for over 17 years, working with two dogs, most recently K-9 Dark. Officer Miller has announced that K-9 Dark will retire in the coming months of 2025. Throughout his career, K-9 Dark has served the township and surrounding communities with honor, courage, and excellence. To celebrate his service, the department is planning a community "Paw-Tirement" party (date and time TBD).

Officer Casey Snyder has been named the department's newest K-9 handler and is expected to receive his new four-legged partner in late April or early May. The team will begin a 5–6-week training academy in mid-May, where they will undergo rigorous training to become patrol certified. This training will include criminal apprehension, tracking, building searches, handler protection, and illegal drug detection. Following the academy, Officer Snyder and his K-9 partner will be required to complete 16 hours of training per month with a certified master trainer and obtain yearly certification to remain active. The K-9 Unit not only serves Bushkill Township but also assists surrounding law enforcement agencies when needed.

The department relies significantly on the support of community and businesses to keep the K-9 program operational. If you or your business would like to contribute to funding this important program, please send your tax-deductible donation to:

Bushkill Township Police Department 1114 Bushkill Center Road Nazareth, PA 18064

Attention: K-9

No donation is too small or too large, and your support is greatly appreciated!

SLOW DOWN:



Speeding continues to be one of the most common complaints the department receives each year. This issue is not confined to major roads like RT 512, Cherryhill Rd, Bushkill Center Rd, and Jacobsburg Rd, but also affects quieter streets and cul-de-sacs—roads primarily used by local residents. The department is aware of these concerns, and officers routinely conduct visibility and enforcement operations in these areas. Our observations have shown that a significant portion of the violations are committed by residents themselves. As we maintain our enforcement efforts, fostering open communication with neighbors may prove to be a valuable strategy in addressing the issue.

Clean Up Day

Where: Bushkill Township Park, Lucas Lane Parking Lot

When: Friday, April 25th from 8am to 3pm

Saturday, April 26th from 7am to 12noon

Rain or Shine—ONE TIME ONLY IN 2025

 Bushkill Township residents, only—proof of residency required

- Drop off is NO contact. Residents are required to unload their own vehicles.
- ♦ Limited to 2 loads per household per day



ITEMS ACCEPTED: White goods, metal goods, general trash, non treated wood materials, Tires (for a fee)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Paint, Batteries, Chemicals (of any kind), Electronics (of any kind), Appliances containing Freon (e.g, Refrigerators, Air conditioners, & Dehumidifiers), Farm equipment tires, Tractor trailor tires. Pressure treated wood.



NEW THIS YEAR! Donate your gently used clothes! All proceeds from clothing containers will go directly to the Bushkill Township Fire Company!



BEAT THE HEAT! DURING HOT WEATHER, STAY INSIDE WHERE IT'S COOL. IF YOU MUST BE OUTSIDE, REST OFTEN. CUT BACK ON EXERCISE AND SEEK SHADE. WEAR SUNSCREEN, DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE THIRSTY TO DRINK. SMALL SIPS OFTEN. STAY AWAY FROM ALCOHOL AND SUGARY DRINKS. NEVER LEAVE ANYONE — ESPECIALLY CHILDREN OR PETS — IN A PARKED CAR ON A HOT DAY.

VACATION DESTINATION! BE AWARE OF NATURAL DISASTERS THAT OCCUR MORE FREQUENTLY IN THE SUMMER, SUCH AS HURRICANES, WILD-FIRES AND TORNADOES, KNOW THE RISKS OF THE AREA YOU ARE VISITING, WATCH FOR WEATHER WARNINGS AND KNOW WHERE TO SEEK SHELTER.

BE BUG FREE! PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICK-AND MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES. ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER, ZIKA VIRUS, AND LYME DISEASE ARE SOME ILLNESSES SEEN MORE IN THE SUMMER MONTHS; WEAR INSECT REPELLENT, PROTECT INFANTS BY SPRAYING CLOTHING AND BLANKETS RATHER THAN DIRECTLY ON CHILD.

SPLISH SPLASH! SET RULES AND BOUNDARIES FOR WATER SAFETY, ESPECIALLY AT HOME, LADDERS UP WHEN POOL NOT IN USE, CHILDREN MUST HAVE LIFE-JACKET'S ON WHEN IN THE BACKYARD. NO SWIMMING WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION, NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED, EVEN IN SMALL AMOUNTS OF WATER, INFANTS NEED PROTECTIVE SUN CLOTHING, PLUS SUNSCREEN, TAKE SHORT BREAKS OFTEN FOR SHADE AND HYDRATION.

ADAPTED FROM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Nazareth Library

News from the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity

The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity is planning an exciting spring and fabulous summer for residents of Bushkill Township!

• The library is now part of the Multi-District Lehigh Valley & Pocono Resource Sharing Consortium! This expanded consortium includes the Lehigh Valley Library System, Lehigh-Carbon Library Cooperative, Monroe County, and Bangor Public Library and provides you immediate access to 1.6 million items! Items are requested through the "card catalog," just like before, and delivered each weekday to the library for patron pickup. And there is zero increased cost to the library for this amazing expansion!

Looking for a special gift for a family member or friend? Consider donating money to the library specifically for a book (or several) in honor of your loved one! Books purchased for this purpose are affixed with special bookplates recognizing both the giver and the honoree. Please contact jsilvius@nazarethlibrary.org for more information.

- The Friends of the Library meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6pm. New members are welcome to participate.
- The Friends of the Library are partnering with the library to sponsor Cash Bingo on Sunday, March 30th at Bushkill Township Fire Co. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Join for great cash prizes, a special door prize, bestseller mini book sale, hot chocolate bar, and concessions!
- April 6th-12th is National Library Week. Stop in for special festivities!
- A spring egg hunt will be held for children in late April. Explore the library lawn for hidden springtime treats!

The Pet Parade will take place on Saturday, May 31st starting at 10am, bigger and better than ever! You can register with a pet or stuffed animal to participate or come out and watch the parade to show your support. Those who register early receive a free T-shirt. All proceeds benefit the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity. Sponsors are needed for this event. Please contact hbennett@nazarethlibrary.org for more information.

• For the 2025 Summer Reading Program, children are invited to eight fun weeks of "Color Our World" art-themed activities, educational programs, weekly crafts, and field trips. Registration opens in early June, and programming spans all summer, through mid-August. Adult and teens will also have the opportunity to earn prizes as they complete reading challenges during the corresponding teen and adult Summer Reading Programs.

Mark your calendar for the annual Touch-a-Truck Festival, which will take place rain-or-shine on Saturday, October 4th, beginning at 10am and ending at 2pm at Bushkill Township Recreation Fields at 1114 Bushkill Center Road in Nazareth, PA. Attendees can see cars, trucks, and equipment up close, and children are encouraged to climb up into the vehicles and talk with the drivers. This year's Festival will feature food trucks and activities for children. Tickets are available for purchase before and at the Festival. Sponsors are needed for this event. Please contact <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.com/https://doi.org/10.1016/

- Join the book discussion groups that meet at the library: Audiobook Lovers' Book, Daytime Book Group, Wednesday Night Book Group, and Brainy Bibliophiles Book Group. Call the library for a current schedule and book selections.
- Adults are also invited to attend craft programs and storytimes for adults and to join the Cookery and Conversation Club to share homemade treats and library cookbook reviews.
- Check out a ukulele, learn to play, and participate in the Ukulele Orchestra!
- See our free swaps: magazines, puzzles, coupons, and houseplants. Just take an item, leave an item.
- Register for Sensory Storytimes, and drop in for ongoing children's storytimes and Shake-and-Boogie sessions (at the library as well as off-site locations). Enjoy monthly scavenger hunts in the children's department and special children's activities and events. Anytime, make a design with our interactive Everbright Wall and play with our puppets, Lego wall, light tables, and AWE computers and new tablet.

Teenagers are invited to contact Ms. Anneliese Warnke at awarnke@nazarethlibrary.org for information about TAB, the Teen Advisory Board. The group meets weekly to plan programs for young adults and the full library community.

Thank you as always to all patrons and community organizations who support the library: Bushkill Township, the library's other three municipalities, readers, donors, volunteers, and program presenters and attendees!

LIBRARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Facebook: @nazarethlibrary
Instagram: @memorialnazarethlibrary
Teen Instagram: @mlnvteens
Twitter: @MemorialLibNaz
Phone Number: 610.759.4932
Website: www.nazarethlibrary.org

Bushkill Township Contact Information

Phone Numbers:

Township Office 610.759.1250 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-4

Local Tax Collector 610.759.6784 Hours vary

Zoning Office 610.759.7197 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-4 **Public Works** 610.759.2758 Hours: Mon-Fri, 7-3 610.759.9588 Police-Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 7-3

Police/Fire —Emergency 911

Police-Non-emergency 610.759.2200 Fire-Non emergency 610.759.2200

Websites:

Bushkill Township www.Bushkilltownship.com **Bushkill Police Dept** www.Bushkilltownship.com **Bushkill Fire Dept**

NABSA (Nazareth Area Baseball Softball Assoc)

Nazareth Soccer Club

www.Bushkilltownshipfireco.com

www.nazarethbsa.org

www.nazarethsoccer.org



Nazareth Library (con't)

These are just a few of the many upcoming highlights of the spring and summer 2025 calendar. Call the library at 610-759-4932 or see the library's vestibule posters, website, and social media outlets for updates, additions, changes, and registration details. We are always updating our collection and planning more opportunities for all ages.

For more information about the library, scan here





Thank you to Bushkill Township leaders and residents. See you at the library! (See photos from some of our recent programs and events below).

Touch-a-Truck Festival 2024



Meet Paleontologist David Sunderlin!



Cookery and Conversation Club





Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when

"Critical fire conditions" means warm temperatures, low humidity,

and strong, gusty winds

A Red Flag Warning is issued when

Avoid burning, be careful around open flames, safely dispose of cigarettes.

Fires can spark and grow very quickly.

Brush/Wildfire Prevention & Safety: "Wildfire" is the term applied to any unwanted, unplanned, damaging fire burning in forest, shrub or grass and is one of the most powerful natural forces known to people. **See the safety tips below**:

- * Be smart whenever you go outdoors and use common sense before lighting any fire.
- * Properly extinguish all smoking materials.
- * Understand that any fire you create could become a wildfire.
- * Never leave any fire unattended and make sure any fire created is properly and completely extinguished.
- * Be careful while operating equipment during periods of hot & dry weather.
- * Never discard fireplace or barbeque ashes before making sure they are properly extinguished.
- * Be EXTREMELY careful with fireworks! NEVER use them in wooded areas around dry brush. Have a garden hose & bucket of water nearby.
- * Be FireWise Create a defensible space around your property:
- * Clear leaves & debris from gutters, porches & decks. This prevents hot embers from igniting your home.
- * Remove dead vegetation from your deck or porch and within 10 feet of your home.
- * Keep flammable materials (firewood and propane tanks) at least 30 feet from your home, shed, and garages.
- * Wildfire can spread to tree tops, keep your lowest branches 6 to 10 feet off the ground.
- *Keep your lawn well maintained and hydrated. If it is brown cut it down.
- * Inspect shingles and roof tiles for any damage & replace if necessary.
- * Cover attic vents with mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks or embers to getting into your home.

Burning ordinance & outdoor burning: Make sure there are no burn bans in effect. No outdoor burning is permitted without prior approval from a fire chief. No prior approval could be subject to citation. Fire rings do not need burning permission. All outdoor

For fire company news & updates, like us on Facebook:

Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company@Bushkilltwpfireco
Bushkill Township Ladies Auxillary@BTVFCLA
Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co – EMS@BTVFCEMS
https://bushkilltownshipfireco.com

controlled burns must be **NO LARGER** than 4' X 4' X 4' feet in size and there must be a garden hose, water buckets, etc. nearby. Burn barrels are permitted but it must have a ¼ mesh screen over the top of the barrel. More information and a complete copy of the latest burning ordinance can be found here: **https://bushkilltownshipfireco.com/burning-ordinance.html**

Knox Box secure entry system: Bushkill Twp. Vol. Fire Co. has implemented the Knox Box program to secure property keys for residences and businesses within the township. These boxes keep entry keys secured that only police and fire departments can open the door in the event of an emergency. This prevents forcible entry and damaged doors to gain access to a building in times of an emergency. Find out more information on our website about how to purchase & install a Knox Box today: https://bushkilltownshipfireco.com/knox-box-information.html

Upcoming/Ongoing Fundraisers; help us help you!

Weekly Wednesday Night BINGO: Doors open: 4:00pm Starts 6:30pm, Regular Games pay \$50, Special Games \$70, \$750 Jackpot – Bingo machine with TV monitors and verification – *Quickies*Progressive Jackpot & More **Ladies Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt:** April 12th 2025– Township children only ages 0-8 - Starts at 1:00pm with 0-11 months; next age groups consecutively thereafter– No early birds prior to 11am.

Annual Carnival: Wednesday: April 30th 6-10pm, Thursday May 1st 6-10pm, Friday May 2nd 6-11, Saturday May 3rd 1-3pm Special needs hours (for persons with special needs), 3-11pm Open to public, Sunday May 4th 1-6pm Food, games, 12+ rides, live music, firetruck rides, bingo, tricky tray, beer tent, crafters, vendors & more

New this year! Read to Ride – Flyer will be on website with details to ride for free!

Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet: May 11th, 2025 - 730am – 12pm – Adults \$13

Car Show: May 17th 2025 - 8am – 2pm – Over 200 cars-trucks-bikes – Food truck - Registration \$20

Ladies Auxiliary Circus Days – Featuring the Zerbini Family Circus with an all-new show: Saturday May 31st at 4pm & 6pm and Sunday June 1st at 1pm & 4pm, Monday June 2nd 6pm 2025 – Pony rides, moon bounce, face painting & more! Tickets: Family 6-pack \$39.99 First 100 adult tickets \$11.95, Adult \$15 online, \$20.00 box office, Additional child \$7 online, \$10 box office- Each adult ticket gets 1 free child's ticket!



Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company (con't)

Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Prevention Tips

Lithium-ion batteries are powering more devices than ever. From our personal electronics, power tools, and mobility devices (e-bikes, scooters, wheelchairs) to energy storage systems, and electric vehicles. These lithium-ion batteries also pose a new fire risk. There are a few tips you can follow to ensure your home is safe with the use of these batteries around the home.

- Store spare lithium-ion batteries away from anything that can burn.
- Don't put lithium-ion batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot cars. This is a fire risk.
- Stop using lithium-ion batteries if you notice an odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking or odd noises.
- Only purchase batteries from name brands and from a qualified testing laboratory such as underwriters laboratory. FDNY just found fake UL labels on batteries in a fatal fire in NYC.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and only use the battery for the device.
- Do not charge any device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging a device that is already fully charged.
- Do not charge lithium-ion batteries overnight or while you leave your home or business.

We want you! We need you! Volunteer today! As you may know, volunteerism in America has been on a steady decline for decades & with this in mind, we need to have a steady influx of volunteers to provide adequate fire/rescue protection to our community. Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company is currently looking for individuals in our community who are interested in becoming a volunteer. We are parents, coaches, friends, & neighbors committed to protecting our community in times of need. We are like family and whether you want to join as a firefighter or a social member, there are many positions available. From fundraising assistance, clerical, administrative, building & grounds maintenance, & so much more. The service that

you will provide to our community is incredibly rewarding & instrumental in making our community a safer place. There is absolutely no time commitment which allows you to help when your schedule permits. Training & equipment are provided to you at no cost. If you are interested in joining, please feel free to reach out to us on Facebook or stop by our firehouse Monday night at 7pm for an application.

Volunteer Firefighters: 18 years old and older Volunteer Junior Firefighters: 14-17 years old Volunteer Social Members: 14 years old and older

For fire company news & updates, like us on Facebook:

Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company @Bushkilltwpfireco.

Bushkill Township Ladies Auxiliary @BTVFCLA

https://bushkilltownshipfireco.com









Cetronia Ambulance Company

Cetronia Ambulance Corps is servicing Bushkill Township residents

Cetronia Ambulance Corps is pleased to offer a subscription program designed to benefit you by ensuring out-of-pocket expenses for ambulance services <u>is</u> kept to a minimum, or in some cases, eliminated. For **less than \$0.24 per day** you can have complete peace of mind that both you and your family are covered. You will find an outline of the subscription program below. Even if a subscription is not right for you, Cetronia Ambulance Corps welcomes your donation which may be tax-deductible. With your support, Cetronia Ambulance Corps can remain "Always Ready" to serve and care for life's most precious resource – the people of our community!

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much does it cost for a subscription?

For a single subscriber, the cost is \$60 per year; a family subscription is \$85 per year. Note: a family subscription is only applicable to those residing at your residence. Subscriptions are valid for one year from <u>date</u> of receipt.

Who is eligible to become a subscriber of the Cetronia Ambulance Corps' subscription program?

Cetronia Ambulance Corps' subscription program is designed to assist the citizens of Bushkill (Northampton County), Lynn, South Whitehall, Upper Macungie, Weisenberg, and Whitehall Townships; the Borough of Coplay, as well as portions of Albany, Greenwich, Lowhill and Salisbury Townships for emergency transportation needs. The entire Lehigh Valley region benefits from the subscription program for non-emergency ambulance transports.

What types of services are included in the subscription program?

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Ambulance Transportation

Non-emergency Ambulance Transportation (subject to the availability of Cetronia Ambulance Corps

Are non-emergency ambulance transports covered by my subscription?

On transports not covered by most insurance (certain non-emergency transports) you will receive a 25% discount off the fees charged. Payment is collected at the time of the request.

How will Cetronia Ambulance Corps work with my insurance company for services rendered?

Cetronia Ambulance Corps will file a claim with the subscriber's insurance company for ambulance transports. If the service is covered by your insurance company, the amount paid by the insurance company will be accepted and the subscriber will only be responsible for 50% of their co-pay and if there is a deductible, the full amount of the deductible.

I have health insurance. Do I still need a subscription?

Yes. A subscription with Cetronia Ambulance Corps means that you will only be responsible for 50% of your co-pay and if there is a deductible, the full amount of the deductible. Co-insurances will be waived on emergency transportations. When medically necessary, ambulances are typically covered by insurance. Insurance companies review and consider the need for an ambulance the way they would for any other medical expense. As a subscriber, those transports not covered by insurance would receive a 25% discount on services rendered. Be sure to check your health insurance benefits to find out if and when such transportation would be covered.

I have Medicare or Medicare HMO. Will a subscription benefit me?

If Medicare or Medicare HMO determines ambulance transportation was not medically necessary, the subscriber will only be responsible to pay the "allowable" amount (this is the amount Medicare or Medicare HMO approved to be paid, not the full ambulance transportation charge.)

What if I am a Medicaid recipient?

By law, Medicaid (medical assistance) recipients are prohibited from participating in this subscription program as it would not provide you with any additional benefits.

I received a check from my insurance company for services rendered. What should I do with it?

You must forward reimbursement received from your insurance company to Cetronia Ambulance Corps.

Will I receive a subscription card in the mail?

No. Your information will be stored in our database and there is no need to provide a card to show proof of your subscription for services.

Is my subscription fee tax deductible?

Subscription fees are NOT tax deductible. Donations may be tax deductible.

Become a subscriber today! Complete the online form at www.cetronia.org/subscription, or call Cetronia Ambulance Corps at 610-398-0239, Option 4.



Continuing to Serve and Advocate for Our Community By Rep. Ann Flood, 138th District

On Jan. 7, I had the distinct honor of being sworn in once again as the representative for Pennsylvania's 138th Legislative District. This moment was especially meaningful as I was joined by my daughter, Ella, in the House chamber.

It's a privilege to serve our community, and I remain deeply committed to addressing the challenges we face while working to unlock new opportunities for a brighter future. I also congratulate my colleagues who took their oaths alongside me, and I look forward to collaborating with them to make meaningful progress for the people of Pennsylvania.



I'm excited to share a new law I supported that helps more retirees access a reduced vehicle registration fee. Retired individuals earning up to \$29,906 now qualify, an increase of over \$10,000 from the previous income limit. If you qualify, you'll pay only an \$11 processing fee. The law applies to one vehicle per qualified applicant with a registered gross weight of up to 9,000 pounds.

Additionally, the 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now open. Thanks to a law I supported last year, income limits have increased to \$46,520 for both homeowners and renters. The program is available to those 65 and older, widows and widowers aged 50 and older, and individuals with disabilities 18 and older. You can apply online at mypath.pa.gov or contact my office for assistance.

I also want to address a growing concern in our area regarding the rise of unidentified drones spotted across New Jersey, New York, and eastern Pennsylvania, including right here in the 138th District. After months of uncertainty, the White House has finally acknowledged this issue, stating that a large number of these drones were authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration for research and various other purposes. This raises important questions, such as why this information was withheld from the public for so long. The lack of transparency caused unnecessary confusion and stress among residents in affected areas.

To address this issue, I am introducing legislation urging the federal government to grant state and local governments the authority to take swift action when drones pose a threat to safety and privacy. Currently, federal regulations limit our ability to respond effectively, and I believe it is time to strengthen protections for our communities.

If you need assistance with the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program or have questions about any state-related issues, my district office is here to help. You can apply online at mypath.pa.gov, or feel free to contact my office for assistance by calling 610-746-2100 or by visiting RepAnnFlood.com. We're always ready to assist, whether you need guidance navigating state agencies, understanding new legislation, or simply have guestions or concerns.

As your state representative, I'm proud to continue serving you and working together to ensure a bright future for our community.



Election Day Tuesday, May, 20 2025

For information on Pennsylvania municipal elections, visit:

http://www.northamptoncounty.org





Opening Day Wed. 04/2/25

Bushkill Township Public Works/Yard

ROAD WORK — Please keep a lookout for our Public Works Department working on roads this spring and summer. For safety reasons, please respect all signs directing traffic and closing roads. Please do not attempt to drive around work areas if the road is closed.

YARD WASTE — All Bushkill Township residents can drop off yard waste at our local collection facility at 897 Clearfield Road. A free permit is required and can be obtained at the Township Office during regular business hours. For safety and security, the Township buildings and collection facility are under surveillance 24/7. All commercial businesses and contractors must drop off at the Central Processing Center at 6701 Weaversville Road, Northampton, PA 18067 (in East Allen Township). All grass clippings must be taken to the Central Processing Center, as they cannot be accepted at our local facility.

The local facility <u>can</u> accept:

Branches, leaves and yard waste must remain separated Branches (no more than 4 inches in diameter/5 feet long) Leaves, Pine cones, Pine needles Christmas trees (free of tinsel, lights, and ornaments)

The local facility cannot accept:

Grass clippings, Sod, Bamboo, Lumber, Tree Stumps, Large woody debris, Plastic/other synthetic materials, Fruit, Vegetables, Ornamental grasses, stones/rocks, or household waste of any kind

BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP YARD WASTE PROGRAM

PERMITTED TO BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESIDENT TO LOAD THEIR VEHICLE DURING THE PERMITTED WEEKDAY HOURS

NO EQUIPMENT OR MACHINERY IS PERMITTED ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOADING MULCH OR DUMPING BRUSH

DUMPING OF BRUSH AND LEAVES IS PERMITTED WEEKDAYS WHEN TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL ARE PRESENT AND SELECTED SATURDAYS

QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AT 610-759-2758



Hours for local drop off are Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:00am to 3:00pm and Saturdays from 8:00am to 12:00pm, April 2 through November 26, 2025. <u>Days and hours are subject to change</u>. Please call the Township or check the website for seasonal, updated hours. For more information on the First Regional Compost Authority (FRCA), please contact their office at the number below. For additional info, please visit the Bushkill Township website or contact FRCA at 610.262.1000. For a list of what is accepted/ not accepted at the FRCA facility, please go to their website at: http://www.frcauthority.org/acceptable_unacceptable_items.pdf

FRCA — First Regional Compost Authority: Although Bushkill Township cannot accept grass clippings at our local facility, the FRCA will accept them from April 15 through October 1, 2025 at the FRCA site, 6701 Weaversville Road, Northampton, PA 18067. Grass clippings must be bagged, and there is a fee of \$1.00 per bag.

FRCA Hours (subject to change due to Staffing Adjustment and Inclement Weather—see website for changes):

Wednesdays and Fridays: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

1st and 3rd Saturdays of each Month: 8:00AM to 1:00PM

2025 Holiday Schedule: The FRCA will be closed on the following holidays:

Martin Luther King Day Presidents Day
Good Friday Memorial Day
Independence Day Labor Day

Veterans Day Thanksgiving Day

Day after Thanksgiving Christmas (12/24 and 12/25)

New Year's Day



Calendar of Events

Sat April 12	2025 Annual Bushkill Township Egg Hunt	1 pm@ Firehouse, Bushkill children only
Fri April 18	Good Friday – Township offices CLOSED	
Sun April 20	Happy Easter!!	
Tues Apr 22	Earth Day	
Fri Apr 25	Township Clean Up day	@Township park on Lucas Lane, 8am-3pm
Sat Apr 26	Township Clean Up day	@ Township park on Lucas Lane, 7am-12n
Apr 30-May 4	Bushkill Township Carnival	see Website for details
Mon May 5	Last Day to Register to vote in Primary election	
Sun May 11	Happy Mother's Day!!	
Sun May 11	Bushkill Mother's Day Breakfast	@Bushkill Fire Hall, 7:30am -12 noon
Sat May 17	Bushkill Fire Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show	@Bushkill Fire House, 8am-2pm
Tues May 20	Election Day	Don't forget to vote!
Mon May 26	Happy Memorial Day – Township offices CLOSED)
Sat May 31st	Library Pet Parade	Downtown Nazareth at 10am
June 1	Museum Opening Weekend	@Jacobsburg Historical Society 10 am-4pm
June 5-8	Annual Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival	@Mountain View Park, E Mountain Rd,
Sat June 7	Moravian Historical Soc Arts & Crafts Festival	Whitefield House, 10am-4pm
Sat June 14	Nazareth Food Truck Festival	Belvidere St, Nazareth, 2-6pm
Sun June 15	Happy Father's Day!!	
June 18-21	Nazareth Carnival	6pm – 11pm @ Nazareth Borough Park
June 28-29	JHS World War II Living History Weekend	10am-4pm @Jacobsburg Historical Society
Sun July 1	Steel Stacks TacoFest	@Steelstacks in Bethlehem, 1 -7pm
Fri July 4	Happy 4 th of July!! - Township offices CLOSED	BE SAFE!!
Sat July 19	Nazareth Day	@Naz Borough Park, 9am -4pm
Sat July 26	Martin on Main	@ South Main St, Nazareth, start 12noon
Aug 1-10	Musikfest	@Founder's Way, Bethlehem
Mon Sept 1	Labor Day — Township offices CLOSED	
Aug 1-10	Musikfest	

Please note: As of the printing of this newsletter, all of the information above is correct. However, due to changing situations/rules, plans may change. Please check with the Event organization or website to make sure the event is still being held.

Have an enjoyable, fun & safe Spring and Summer!

Kenneth N. Butz Elementary School PTA

Together we Grow! BESPIA

KBES PTA thrives through the volunteer work of Parents and Teachers, but also with support from Bushkill Township Businesses and Community Organizations. It takes a community to build a strong school and together we can give our students a solid start on their way to becoming the community leaders and business people who carry our township forward! Is your business interested in a sponsorship opportunity with KBES PTA? Join others in our community in sponsoring classroom materials, activities, and more! https://www.kbespta.org





The PTA has lots of fun events planned for the spring! We will have our family Reading Night with a visit from a published author. We also have our Reading Is FUNdamental book distribution where the PTA provides each child at KBES with a book. To celebrate the arrival of spring, we have our classroom Spring Celebration where each child gets a treat and completes a fun springthemed craft.

The PTA is also helping to fund exciting and educational field trips for all grade levels. We are able to do all this and more because of the generous donations and fundraisers. Thank you to all the supporters of the KBES PTA!

Find out more about our activities and fundraisers at www.kbespta.org!

Local Phone Numbers

Electric:

PPL 800-342-5775 Met Ed 800-545-7741

Phone/Cable/Internet:

 Verizon
 800-837-4933

 Astound (RCN)
 800-746-4726

 Service Electric
 610-865-9100

 Direct TV
 888-777-2454

State Officials:

Senator, Nick Miller

District 40 610-821-8468

Representative, Ann Flood

District 138 610-746-2100 Governor, Josh Shapiro 717-787-2500

Government Agencies:

IRS

 DEP
 866-255-5158

 Natl Poison Center
 800-222-1222

 Social Security
 800-772-1213

 Medicare
 800-633-4227

Northampton County Services:

Animal Health & Welfare 610-252-7722

Memorial Library of Nazareth 610-759-4932

Nazareth Area School District 610-759-1170

Naz-Bath Chamber of Commerce 610-759-9188

Northampton County 610-829-6500

PennDOT Motor Vehicle

Northampton County 010-829-030

Local Hospitals:

Lehigh Valley Hospital, Muhlenberg

610-402-8000

800-829-1040

800-932-4600

St Luke's Hospital, Anderson

484-503-3000

Lehigh Valley Hospital, Hecktown Oaks

610-333-8888

Used Clothing Drop-off Shed



Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed Sponsored By:

Bushkill Twp. Vol. Fire Company

With the help of Turnkey Enterprises, LLC

Location:

155 Firehouse Dr. Nazareth, PA 18064 (Parking Lot)

Items Accepted:

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys. (Your donation will not be cut up or shredded)

(Please... <u>no</u> rags, fabric scraps, toys or household goods, **please** understand that the above mentioned items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.)

Turnkey Enterprises, LLC:

Turnkey Enterprises, LLC is a for-profit company that partners with nonprofit organizations in communities to help support their fundraising needs by recycling unwanted clothing. The clothing collected is used as clothing, <u>not cut into rags</u>. Turnkey services each location and pays the sponsoring organization by the pound for the unwanted items.

www.turnkey-enterprises.com

*** Help us keep your donation clean and dry ***
Please put your donation in plastic bags. Thank you

Jacobsburg Environmental Educational Center

<u>Weekly Weeders:</u> Mondays 4/7, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 6/2, 6/9, 6/30, 7/7, 7/21, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25 8:30am-10:30am Interested in learning more about gardening with native plants? Volunteer to mulch, pull weeds, divide plants, and amend soil in the center's native plant garden Monday mornings from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. We provide instruction, tools, and weeding mats. Registration is required.

Woodland Wildflower Walk: Wednesday, April 16 at 10am to 12pm

Join conservation volunteer Doug Burton for a one-mile hike in Sobers Run to learn about the early spring blooms scattered throughout the forest. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. This walk is for adults only. Registration is required.

Hike for Health: Wednesdays 4/16, 5/14, 6/18, 7/9, 8/13

Get moving after work with a brisk hike at Jacobsburg! These guided monthly hikes are 2 to 3 miles over uneven terrain. You must be able to maintain a hiking pace of two miles per hour to attend. Dogs are welcome to hike on a leash. Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole at 400 Belfast Road. Registration is not required. Join the email reminder list by contacting us at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov.

Family Science Night - Arbor Day Tree Planting: Friday, April 18 at 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Join us for a tree planting event in celebration of Arbor Day! We will learn how to properly dig a hole, plant, and care for trees. The tree planting will benefit the Henrys Forge teaching area at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. Gloves will be provided along with a limited number of shovels. If you have your own shovel that you are willing to bring to the event for your personal use, we would greatly appreciate the availability of additional shovels. Registration is required.

Basic Boating Course: Saturday, April 26 at 9am to 5pm

The PA Fish & Boat Commission's PA Basic Boating Course was developed to supply boaters with practical information so they can make better informed decisions on the water. Instructors provide students with information to help them reduce the risk of injury and conflict on the water. Students who successfully complete this course may apply for a Boating Safety Education Certificate issued by the Commission. This course will be held indoors. Registration required. For questions call Andy Desko at 215-968-3631.

Native Plant Garden Volunteer Day: Saturday, April 26 at 9am to 11am

Join us as we prepare our native plant garden for the warmer months. We'll do any final maintenance needed such as pruning, weeding, tidying the paths, and removing old plant material. We'll provide gloves and tools but feel free to bring your own if you prefer. Please bring water and a snack. Registration is required.

Signs of Spring Hike: Saturday, April 26 at 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Looking for a way to beat the doldrums? Join us as we search for wildflowers, new plant growth, migrating birds and other signs of spring. Be prepared for a moderate two-mile hike that involves muddy areas and uphill climbs. Please bring binoculars, a camera, water and a snack, and wear sturdy shoes. Registration is required.

Fishing Equipment Available: When: Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 2:30pm

Where: Jacobsburg Visitor Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth

Borrow fly rods, spinning rods, fly boxes, and tackle to use in Jacobsburg's creeks! To borrow equipment, you must provide a driver's license or other form of state issued identification. Persons age 16 and older must possess a current fishing license to fish. Adults can help children under 16 fish without a license. Bait is not provided. For more information call 610-746-2801 or email jacobsburgsp@pa.gov.

<u>DiscoverE Adventure Backpacks Available:</u> When: Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 2:30pm

Where: Jacobsburg Visitor Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth

Borrow a backpack full of kid-friendly tools to explore Jacobsburg! These backpacks are best for families with young children. Each backpack includes binoculars, notepad, colored pencils, magnifying lens, bug box, dip net, and five field guides for exploring the pond, insects, birds, trees, butterflies and moths. For more information call 610-746-2801 or email jacobsburgsp@pa.gov.

You can view and register for community programs online at https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/search/events?
order=date&search=jacobsburg. If you need an accommodation to participate in a program, please contact the park office at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. Interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs with at least seven days notice.

Jacobsburg Historical Society

Event Calendar

June 1 Museum Opening (pictures from JHS website)

1832 J. Joseph Henry House:

Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum





Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop



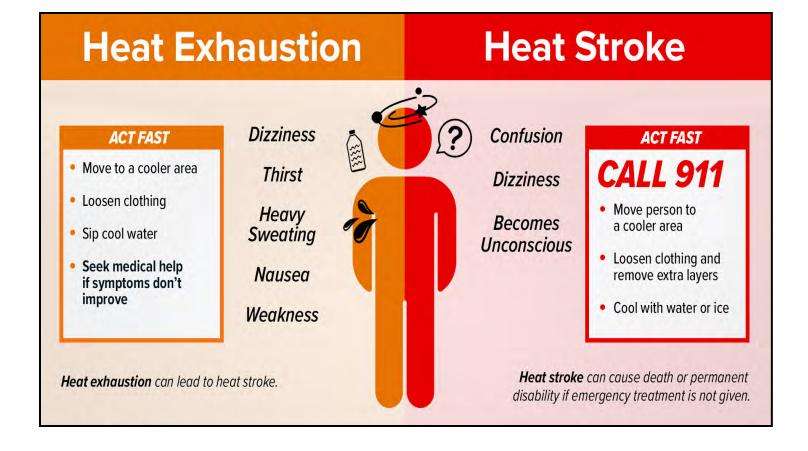
June 7 JHS participating in Youth Day @ Stockertown Rod & Gun Club

June 14 Backstage at Boulton—additional information to be available on Facebook & Eventbrite this spring

June 28-29 World War II Living History Weekend

July 12 Yard Sale, Additional information will be available on Facebook

Sept 20-21 Outlaws & Peacemakers - additional information to be found on the website/Facebook



Nazareth Soccer Club





DEVELOP SKILLS. MAKE FRIENDS. HAVE FUN!

Fall 2025 soccer registration opens in May!

Nazareth Soccer Club provides a fun and competitive environment for players aged 3-18 of all skill levels. Join us and experience the excitement of the game!

Register at www.nazarethsoccer.org

A special thank you to Bushkill Township, our sponsors, and volunteers for your support!

Nazareth Area Baseball & Softball Assoc.

The weather is warming up and the days are getting longer; spring fall baseball and softball is here! The Nazareth Area Baseball and Softball Association (NABSA) is excited to see our fields hosting practices and games once again. This spring we have over 700 players registered across all NABSA programs. The majority of our players will participate in traditional baseball and softball and NABSA is pleased to again offer T-ball Academy and the RISE Program.

This season our baseball players will play in the newly formed Lehigh Valley Baseball Rec Alliance. This league's primary focus is on providing a league whose culture is aimed at the development of youth baseball players at all levels. We are excited to be a part of founding the league and are looking forward to a successful inaugural season!

We would like to take the chance to thank all of our local sponsors and townships for their continued support of our program. Without it, our program would not be able to continue to grow and develop the youth players of our area.

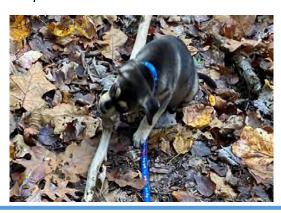
At NABSA we have several season titles from last year to defend and our players and coaches are ready to get to work. Let's go! Feel free to come out to the fields, grab a hot dog and cheer our players on!

To learn more about NABSA please visit our website http://www.nazarethbsa.org or follow up on Facebook.

Dog Friendly Open Space

In Bushkill Township, we have two basic types of recreation areas—active parks and passive preserves. The passive use areas include all of our open space preserves and our walking trail off of Route 512. These areas all allow dogs, provided they are leashed. Dog waste stations are available at each location. Our Recreation Complex across from the Township Building on Bushkill Center Road is an active park which includes ball fields, playgrounds, pavilions, etc. These types of activities produce many people in tight quarters, often with children playing and running around. Any dog, even the most well-behaved, can be surprised and react badly. With exception of service animals, dogs are not permitted in our Recreation Complex, per ordinance which was passed in 1988. All rules and regulations for our active and passive recreation areas are posted at each location. You are welcome to enjoy our passive preserves with your furry friends!









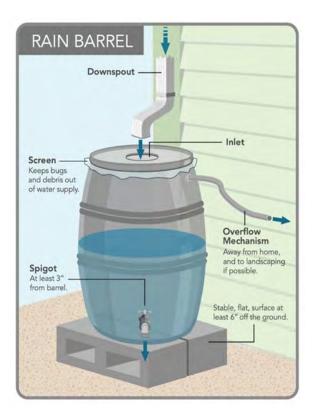




Rain Barrels for Sale

Bushkill Township will have **10** rain barrels for sale at the Township Municipal Building for \$30 each. They can be purchased assembled, or they can be assembled at home. The kit comes with a barrel, outflow valve, inlet with screen for the top of the barrel, and the overflow. If you would like yours assembled, please specify if you would like the overflow to be located on the right or left side (looking at the spigot) of the barrel. We recommend that the overflow be directed away from any structures. Please contact Bushkill Township's Open Space Coordinator Kerry Reider at 610-759-1250 if you would like to purchase one.





Farmers Markets in our area

Nazareth Farmers' Market

Main & Center Streets, Nazareth, PA 18064 Saturdays 9am – 1pm. May thru October Winter: 30 Belvidere Street, 10am-1pm,

Bath Farmers' Market

Keystone Park: Green St & Route 329 (Race Street)
Bath, PA 18014
Fridays 3 – 7pm, May 13—September 23

Northampton Farmers' Market

1401 Laubach Ave. Northampton, PA 18067 Tuesdays 3pm – 6:30pm. May 3 – September 27

Bethlehem Farmers' Market

Farrington Square at Lehigh University

Thursdays 10am – 2pm. May 5 – October 27

Easton Farmers' Market

Summer: Riverfront at Scott Park, Easton PA 18042 Saturdays 9am – 1pm. May thru December

Winter: Outdoors at 325 Northampton Street (in front of Easton Public Market) Saturdays, 10am-Noon. January thru April

Invasive Species Spotlight: Common Reed

Invasive Species Spotlight: Common Reed (Phragmites australis)





Common Reed (Phragmites australis)

Common Cattail (Typha latifolia)

Most people who think of wetland areas will think of Cattails or the tall, feathery Common Reed that inhabits most wetlands in the area. The Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and Narrow-leaved Cattail (*Typha augustifolia*) which both have "corndog" like seed heads that contain soft fuzzy seeds are native to Pennsylvania. The Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), with the tall feathery seed heads, are not native to Pennsylvania. In fact, the Common Reed is an invasive species that can take over wetland areas and outcompete native plants by consuming all available growing space. These plants may also change wetland hydrology because they consume a lot of water. There is a native subspecies of Phragmites (*Phragmites australis subsp. Americanus*) but much of that has been replaced by the invasive Phragmites. The native subspecies does not grow in as dense of clumps and has a few other differences that make it distinguishable from the invasive Phragmites. The invasive lineage was most likely introduced from Europe in the late 1700s or early 1800s when it was being used as ballast material on ships. The seeds are so light and easily spread that it has become one of the most widespread plants in North America. The invasive Phragmites is so prevalent that it now inhabits many fresh and saltwater marshes/wetlands, roadside swales, stormwater basins, and stream banks throughout most of the United States.

There are several different methods to remove populations of Phragmites. There are both mechanical and chemical treatment options. The chemical treatment is to spray populations of Phragmites with herbicide such as Glyphosate or Imazapyr. These are both broad spectrum herbicides that are non-selective, meaning they will kill both grasses and broad leaf plants. The herbicide chosen must be rated for aquatic use since Phragmites typically grow in or near water. Herbicide treatment is the most effective and wide-spread treatment option. Successive treatments of herbicide are necessary for eradication. Mechanical treatments that are typically used are cutting the plant below the surface to drown it or hand pulling small populations. These options are less widely used but are still effective. Again, successive treatments are necessary for eradication. Phragmites is a very aggressive and persistent invasive plant that can quickly get out of control if it is not eradicated.





Bushkill Township

1114 Bushkill Center Road Nazareth, PA 18064



Spring/Summer 2025
Municipal Office
Closings

Good Friday Friday, April 18

Memorial Day Monday, May 26

4th of July Friday, July 4

Labor Day Monday, September 1

Board of Supervisors



Front row:, L-R: Julie Bender, Brien Kocher (Chairman), Carolyn Hill Back Row, L-R: Jason Smith (Vice-Chairman), Randy Knauss