



RICHLAND Township Times

FALL 2016

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QYBA Honors Clayton Molnar

by Supervisor Tim Arnold

Earlier this year I received a phone call from a friend of mine asking me to attend an event that was being hosted by the Quakertown Youth Baseball Association (QYBA). The date of the event was April 9, 2016, and the event was to honor Clayton Molnar by renaming the QYBA complex to the Clayton Molnar Memorial Youth Baseball Complex.

It was snowing and very cold that day, but what warmed me up quickly was seeing the hundreds of people and children who showed up to honor Clayton Molnar. I didn't know Clayton very well, but listening to the many stories about Clayton and how he made a difference in so many lives was amazing, and made me wish that I could have known him a little better.

When I asked the President of the QYBA, Matt Lawhead, to tell me a little about Clayton and what he had done for the QYBA, he said the following: "Clayton was a volunteer and the heart and soul of QYBA for over fifty years. Starting off as a coach and umpire in the late 1960's, he eventually went on to build all of the QYBA's fields at both complexes to what they are today. As an organization, we are very blessed to have so many volunteers that knew and loved Clayton."

Pennsylvania State Representative Craig Staats was also in attendance that day to present the Molnar family with a State Citation honoring Clayton for

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Township Personnel

Supervisors: Timothy Ritter, *Chairman*
Tim Arnold, *Vice Chairman*
Richard Orloff

Township Manager: Paul Stepanoff

Assistant Manager/

Zoning Officer: Richard Brittingham

Administrative Assistant: Tracey Virmelson

Advisor to Admin Assistant: Laura Held

Treasurer: Charles Botson

Code Enforcement Officer: Ray Constable

Solicitor: B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr.

Road Department:
James Benner, *Public Works Director*
Thomas Roeder, *Advisor to Director*
Scott Ambrone, *Assistant Roadmaster*
Michael Schmell, Carrie Passerini

RTWA: Dianne McLane, *Office Manager*
Tim Gluck, *Operations*

Engineering Department:
Mike Schwartz, Amy Kaminski
Gilmore & Associates
David Jones, Judy Stern Goldstein
Boucher & James

Police Department:
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Rosemary Wheatley, *Admin. Asst.*
Nancy Benfield, *Receptionist*
Sergeant Michael Kisthardt
Det. Sergeant Ray Aleman
Matt Mergen • John Burke
Matthew Lawhead • Thomas Murphy
Brian Hendrzak • Zachary Herb
Ronald Rosenberg • Michael Colahan
Nicholas Costa • Steven Bauman
James Hohenwarter

Auditors: Samuel Quier, *Chairman*
Bill Spanier • Randall Disert

Snow Removal Tips for Residents

from the Public Works Department

While we are enjoying this beautiful time of year, we should remember that snow season is just around the corner. When the road crew removes snow from the street, we must push the snow to the outside of the roadway. The plow operators do their best to make sure nobody gets more than their "fair share" of snow, but the snow must go somewhere, and some of it goes in front of driveways.

Here are some tips for residents to make it easier on everyone:

- Wait until the trucks are finished plowing to shovel your driveway, if possible.
- As you are standing in your driveway facing the street, shovel snow to the right of the driveway, otherwise the plow will push the pile into your driveway on the next pass.
- Depositing snow in the street is a violation of local law. Why not place the snow on the yard behind the sidewalk?
- Park off the street whenever possible. When plows have to negotiate around parked cars, it takes us longer, and snow will get packed

tightly around your car making shoveling more difficult for you.

- Observe and obey Snow Emergency Routes. Our police spend valuable time getting residents to move vehicles off Snow Emergency Routes. Whenever snow is deep enough to plow, move your vehicles to clear the snow routes.
 - Make sure your mailbox is sturdy and placed as far off the roadway as practical. If the mailbox is on the road right-of-way and is damaged by snow, the township is not responsible for damage. If the mailbox is actually hit by the plow we will take responsibility for repair. It is rare that a plow actually hits a mailbox. Most damage is done by the weight of the snow coming off the plow.
 - Move basketball nets far away from the street and curb. Nets hanging out past the curb are still in the way.
- Snow plow operators are doing a difficult job under adverse conditions. They are not trying to make life difficult for you, they are doing their best to make traveling safe for you and emergency vehicles.

Richland Township Committees

Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee (ASAAC)

Tim Arnold, *Chairman*
Dale Henninger • Robert Gerstenberg
John Keller • Thomas Stoneback
Robin Davidheiser

Community/Police Liaison Board

Jim Sulger, *Chairman*
William Rosson • James Smith
Andrew Maseloff • Barbara Werner
Wayne Rubic • Frank Hilt
Steve Cardell • Jonathan Taylor
Leanna McGuigan • David Galione

Facilities Committee

Richard Stoneback, *Chairman*
Mike McGee • Mark Fournier
Patricia Keller • Steaven Klein
Chris Fennell • Richard Petovic
Matthew Walsh

Ordinance Review Committee

Richard Keller • James Stiteler
Larry Jalowiec • George Schwartz

Park & Recreation Board / Trails Committee

Cynthia Rosson, *Chairman*
Tom Marino • Gregg Pambianco
Keith Robinson • Michelle Lux
Richard Staudenmeier

Planning Commission

Scott Guidos, *Chairman*
Robert Bonomo • Mary Sulger
Chris Fennell • Matthew Walsh
Edward Whitham • Gwen Simek

Preservation Board

Kathleen Fedorocsko, *Chairman*
Dale Henninger
Douglas Godshall • Richard Sadler
Joe Geib • Rich Brittingham

Water Authority

Ken Mitchell, *Chairman*
Chris Vanelli • Zane Stauffer
Bruce Jones • William Rosson
Tim Arnold, *Executive Director*
Mark Bahnick, *Engineer*
Stephen Shelly, *Solicitor*

Zoning Hearing Board

Thomas Steinfort
Todd Koch • Emery Ashton
Al McCrea Jr., *Alternate*
Kok Keng Yong, *Alternate*
Richard Brown, *Solicitor*

Do Your Part to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater is created when the amount of rain falling exceeds the land's ability to absorb it.

Without treatment, stormwater that runs from the land into our waterways can be unhealthy for people and bad for the environment. Runoff can carry chemicals, metals, bacteria, viruses, organic compounds, and other pollutants directly into our streams, eventually reaching creeks, lakes and rivers. Everyone, not just government, plays a role in protecting these valuable resources by reducing the amount of runoff and the pollutants it carries. You can help by taking steps to make sure your gardens and lawns are "stormwater-friendly."

Stormwater-friendly gardens

If not cared for responsibly, a home garden can contribute considerable nutrients and other pollutants to waterways.

Fertilizers: Instead of using chemical fertilizers, give organic alternatives, such as compost and manure, a try. Compost, a "do-it-yourself" fertilizer that can be created from such things as vegetable scraps and garden clippings, contains the nutrients that help make gardens

grow. However, when using organic fertilizers, be sure to apply them directly to the ground before planting your vegetables to prevent runoff.

Pesticides: While some insects can present problems, many are harmless to people and play an important role in maintaining a healthy lawn or garden. If you are having a problem with one particular insect, there may be a non-chemical alternative for controlling it. We suggest that you research the particular insect to see if a non-chemical alternative is available. Pesticides should be a last resort because they could infiltrate groundwater, contaminating drinking supplies and hurt downstream ecosystems.

Stormwater-friendly lawns

The following lawn-care steps will not only help to protect local streams and rivers, but will also result in cost savings for homeowners:

- Set your mower height to 3 inches or higher. Higher grass slows the runoff and produces a deeper and denser root system, which absorbs more water and prevents erosion, and helps filter runoff. Deeper roots will reduce

Continued on page 5

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 Saturday
 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
 Closed Sunday

Pictures from Creative Arts Camp



Clayton Molnar

Continued from Page 1

his many decades of service to the QYBA. Representative Staats had the following to say about Clayton: "Clayton truly went above and beyond with his service to QYBA. From field maintenance to umpiring, Clayton has donated hundreds of hours to benefit the youth in our community... OUR KIDS. The dedication of the QYBA fields is a



fitting way to honor Clayton and everything he's done for QYBA. Our community is truly grateful for his many years of service. Clayton has been a fixture at this organization for years and now he'll be a part of QYBA forever."

While I was preparing this article, I spoke with many people who knew and loved Clayton. My conversation with these individuals reminded me of a quote that I once heard: "If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased."

It's apparent that Clayton Molnar has left a mark on this world that definitely will not be erased.

Last year, I wrote an article in this newsletter about the great people who make a difference in the lives of many. I typically do not attempt to reprint articles, but the previous article (*see page 13*) exemplifies the appreciation that we should have for the Clayton Molnars in our community.



Stormwater Pollution

Continued from Page 3

the need for watering during droughts and reduces weed growth.

- Keep grass clippings and chopped leaves on your property. With a mulch-mower clippings will be retained and spread on your lawn. They decompose quickly, provide important nutrients for your lawn, and settle to create an organic layer on the soil that encourages stormwater infiltration. This mulch will reduce and maybe eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizers, reducing costs.

- Determine if fertilizer is really needed. Not using fertilizer is beneficial for local waterways and streams. If you do need to use fertilizer for thin lawns or bare spots, a soil test is recommended. Lawn needs can vary drastically based on the soil texture, pH, and nutrient levels. By identifying your lawn's needs first, you can reduce unnecessary applications, create a healthier lawn faster, and reduce your long-term costs.

- Wait until the grass begins growing in March to fertilize and then stop after October. Adding fertilizer when lawns are dormant increases the likelihood that it will only wash away without helping your lawn and adding chemicals to our streams. Fertilizer applied during a lawn's dormant period is an unnecessary expense.

- Keep fertilizer and pesticides 15 to 20 feet away from streams. This will help keep these chemicals from reaching the streams.

- Clean up spilled fertilizer that may fall on hard surfaces. By sweeping up any granulated chemicals from your walkway, driveway, patio or the road back to your yard, you not only save wasting your fertilizer, but will reduce the amount of pollution that washes away to the streams.



**NO
CHARGE!**

Richland Township Shred Event/ Drug Takeback

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016

(Rain or Shine)

TIMES:

**Drug Takeback
10:00 am - 2:00 PM**

**Shred Event
12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM**

LOCATION:

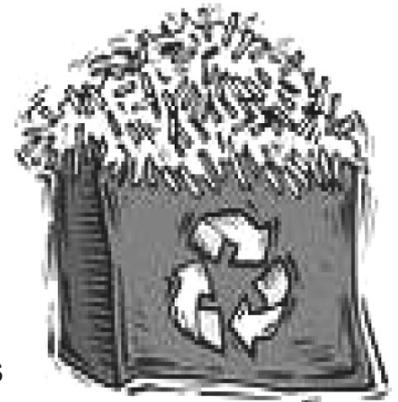
**Richland Township
Police Department
229 California Road
Quakertown, PA**

** Please do not bring phone-
books, newspapers, cardboard
or hard-bound books.*

~ For residents only ~

Richland Township Police Department
is holding a Shred Event/Drug Takeback

Shredding sensitive documents is one way to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft. These documents include materials containing names, addresses, social security numbers and account numbers.



Got drugs? Check your medicine cabinets for unused or expired medications and bring them along for safe disposal here. Doing so will keep them away from our children and out of our water supply. Sorry, we are not permitted to collect syringes.



Township Police Department Thanks You!

by Richard J. Ficco, Sr., Chief of Police

It has been a tough year for law enforcement. I am not here to debate the events that have caused these issues, but the senseless killing of police officers is not the answer to any issue. In July, five police officers were killed in the Dallas area, and 10 days later, three officers were killed in the Baton Rouge area. And while these kinds of deaths hit police officers hard, we knew it was a dangerous job when we signed on. It can happen anywhere; prayerfully, it doesn't happen again.

But what was amazing to see were the residents who came by our station to say "we are thinking of you or praying for you" in the aftermath of Dallas and Baton Rouge, and it was very comforting to me and to our

officers. I cannot tell you how many gift cards, trays of food, cookies, brownies and yes, donuts, were brought to our station. It is amazing to see the support our officers received from our citizens. We are truly grateful for the support of our community!

Many of you know that our department has "Support our Police" yard signs, and we still have some available. If you are interested, we have them at the station and there will be some at Community Day again this year.

We thank you for your support!

Message From the Tax Collector

by Walter Johnson

Just a few reminders.....

❖ The 2016/17 Real Estate Tax bills for Quakertown Community School District were mailed on June 30th. If you own property or a mobile home in Richland Township and have not received your bill, please contact my office at 215-536-6603. Sometimes bills are returned due to a change in owner or address. **Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve your tax obligation.**

❖ All tax bills are sent directly to the property owner. If your mortgage company escrows your taxes, it is your responsibility to contact them with your tax information.

❖ If you are paying in person, my office location is 520 Station Road (between the Q-Mart and the circle). Please call if you need directions.

❖ If you mail your payment and require a stamped receipt, you must send the entire bill (both the TAXPAYER COPY and the TAX COLLECTOR COPY) with your self-addressed stamped envelope.

If my office hours are not convenient for you, I have installed a locked drop box on my front porch. Enclose both parts of the bill and a self-addressed envelope and I will send you a receipt.

Any current news, changes or updates can be located on my website: Richlandtownshiptaxcollector.webs.com.

VOTE YES FOR OPEN SPACE!

by Kathleen Fedorocsko, Chairwoman,
Richland Township Land Preservation Board

Over the past 30 or so years, dramatic changes have occurred in Richland Township as developers transformed hundreds of acres of farm fields into new residential and commercial developments. The Richland Township Land Preservation Board, an all-volunteer group of residents, was formed in 1999 to administer the Open Space Plan adopted by Richland Township that was created in response to these new growth demands. It was updated in 2009 to reflect the changes that have occurred in our community.

In 2002, the voters overwhelmingly voted for the township to secure a \$3.2 million dollar bond for the purchase of open space and conservation easements. This was paid for by imposing a 0.1% earned income tax (EIT) for 15 years and will end mid-2018.

A bit of background as to what the Land Preservation Board has been able to accomplish with these funds: Richland Township covers 13,700 acres; the Land Preservation Board has been able to protect in perpetuity over 32 farms and significant natural area properties, a total of over 1,100 acres.

The Land Preservation Board recognized the need to preserve farms in our community; it has been our top



priority. By saving township farms, we have saved a significant portion of the special character and the almost 300-year old history of Richland. Not only are the valuable agricultural soils protected, but also the scenic rural landscape remains for all to enjoy.

We have also protected valuable natural resources: woodlands, meadows, wetlands, wildlife greenways and open land for groundwater recharge. The Land Preservation Board has also saved in perpetuity many

Continued on next page

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Recycling in Richland Township

Recycling is mandatory in Richland Township for all residents and non residential establishments. Residents are required to recycle at least the following items: newspapers, inserts, junk mail, magazines, phone books, cardboard, aluminum cans, tin and steel cans, glass jars and bottles, all plastic containers labeled 1 thru 7 and leaf waste. Operators of non-residential property uses are also required to recycle at least the following items: high-grade office paper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans, glass jars and bottles, plastic water bottles and leaf waste. If you need to know your recycling collection day or requirements, contact your trash hauler. Most trash haulers working in the Township include the collection of recyclable materials at no additional cost.

Open Space

Continued from Page 8

areas in the Upper Tohickon Watershed. This all helps to give our community the balance it needs.

The Land Preservation Board has stretched these tax dollars as far as we could over the past 13 years by utilizing the Bucks County land preservation programs. These programs require matching funds from Richland Township to be able to participate. There is still a good deal of interest from landowners in Richland to preserve their property. However, these original funds are almost used up.

This fall, the Richland Township Land Preservation Board will have a referendum question on the ballot. It will ask the voters to extend the current 0.1% EIT for an additional five years.

This is NOT a tax increase; it is an extension of the existing tax that will give us the matching funds to use with the County land preservation programs. It does not affect those who are living on retirement income and is not imposed on social security, pensions, interest or stock dividends. It is non-partisan!

Urban sprawl is one problem that residents have the power to control by preserving open space. Land preservation benefits the whole community, keeping



development at bay, which keeps our school and local taxes down, as well as providing a better quality of life. Open space brings balance to our rapidly urbanizing community.

So this fall, Richland Township residents, vote YES for open space!

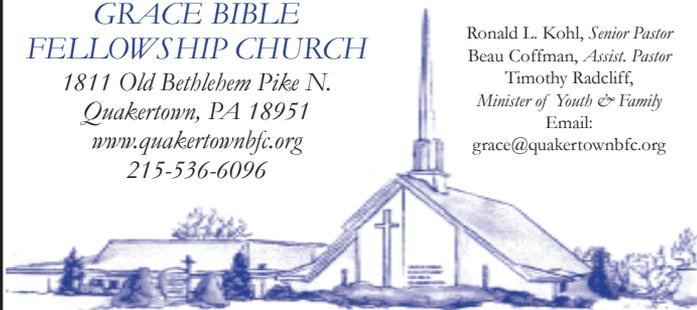
“No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation.”

~ General Douglas MacArthur

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Ronald L. Kohl, *Senior Pastor*
Beau Coffman, *Assist. Pastor*
Timothy Radcliff,
Minister of Youth & Family
Email:
grace@quakertownbfc.org



SUNDAY HOURS: SEPTEMBER - MAY

9:00 am	Sunday School for all ages
10:10 am	Worship Service
6:30 pm	Evening Worship (except 2nd & 4th Sundays)
6:30 pm	Small Group Fellowships (2nd & 4th Sundays)

WEDNESDAYS: SEPTEMBER - MAY

6:30 pm	Awana for children (2 years - 6th grade)
6:30 pm	Teens for Christ (7th - 12th grade)
7:00 pm	Adult Bible Study & Prayer

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

- ▶ Grace music - Adult Choir and Choral Ensembles (men and women)
- ▶ Special Music
- ▶ Men's Small Group Bible Studies & Periodic Breakfast & Speakers
- ▶ Tuesday Morning & Evening Ladies' Bible Study (Sept. - May)
- ▶ Vacation Bible Camp for Children in Summer
- ▶ "Keenagers": Senior Adults' Monthly Luncheon



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Leaf Collection Schedule

October 3 - December 2



Autumn is here and that means it is time to clean up those leaves.

Richland Township began its leaf collection program because of the need to keep stormwater inlets clear, and to help our residents properly dispose of leaves. The leaves we collect are taken to facilities that recycle them into compost. If you have a composting lawn mower, you may want to consider using it to leave the composting leaves in place to benefit your lawn instead of piling them up at the road for collection.

Although we will try to meet the following schedule, our collections may be affected by poor weather or other factors. If we get behind in our schedule, we will collect leaves as close to your collection date as possible.

Leaf collection in developments with roads dedicated to the township

Residents who live in developments with roads dedicated to the township may place leaves for collection beginning **October 17, 2016, through December 2, 2016**. The leaf collection vehicle will travel through the dedicated road developments weekly. If leaves are placed out late in the week, they may be collected the following week. Leaves must be on the road surface, against the curb. Leaves on the sidewalk or in yards will not be collected.

Developments in this group are:

The Elms
Walnut Bank Farms (Walnut Bank Farm Road, Farm House Lane, Red Barn Lane and School House Lane)
Richland Mead
Hunters Crossing (including Timberbrook Drive and Hallmark Place)

Sweetbriar
Brayton Gardens I
Brayton Gardens II
Tollgate Landing
Richland Court
Regency Manor
Spring Meadows
Academy Place
Richland Station (including Turntable Circle)
Heather Valley/Richland Farms
Deer Run Estates
Morgan Creek

Leaf collection in developments with non-dedicated roads

Leaves will be collected two times in developments with roads that are privately maintained and not part of the township road system: **October 31 to November 4, 2016**, and again the week of **November 14 to 18, 2016**.

Most of these developments have parking lots or courts that cannot be accessed with our equipment because of space constraints and numerous parked cars. Place the leaves on the street, against the curb, on the main access roads. Leaves on sidewalks, yards and inaccessible areas will not be collected.

Developments in this group, and the streets where leaves may be placed:

Stonegate Village (place leaves on Stonegate Road)
Beaver Run (place leaves on Beaver Run Drive, Terrace Drive and Windsor Court)
Richland Greene
Quakers Green (place leaves on Quakers Way)
Walnut Bank Farms Condominium Section (place leaves on Walnut Bank Farm Road)
Renaissance at Morgan Creek (place leaves on Memory Lane, Creekside Lane, and Turtle Creek Lane)
Arbours at Morgan Creek

Leaf collection on rural roads

Because of the large amount of frontage along rural roads, we must limit collections on those roads to a **one time collection** during the week specified for your road. Leaves placed for collection after the specified week may not be collected.

Pile leaves on the shoulder as close to the roadway as possible. Our machine cannot reach farther than the shoulder so leaves beyond that point will not be collected.

Please use the following schedule for a one time collection during your **specified week**.

Week of October 3 to 7, 2016:

Route 309
Route 663
E. Cherry Road
Route 313
Paletown Road
Rocky Ridge Road
Thatcher Road
Union Road
Apple Road
Richlandtown Pike
Route 212
Younken Road
Pullen Station Road
Trumbauersville Road
Tollgate Road
Mill Road
N. Old Bethlehem Pike
W. Zion Hill Road

Week of October 17 to 21, 2016:

N. Mine Road
S. Mine Road
Hickon Road
Keystone Road
Gross Road
W. Cherry Road
California Road
Dickert Road
Camp Rockhill Road

Continued on next page

Leaf Collection Schedule

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Scholls School Road
 Yankee Road
 W. Rich Hill Road
 Whaland Road
 E. Rich Hill Road
 Muskrat Road
 Smoketown Road
 S. Old Bethlehem Pike
 Station Road
 Stoneback Road
 Tohickon Road
 Shelly Road
 Nice Road
 E. Zion Hill Road

Week of November 7 to 11, 2016:

E. Rockhill Road
 Raub Road
 Erie Road
 Axehandle Road
 Meadow Road
 Beck Road
 E. Pumping Station Road
 W. Pumping Station Road
 Heller Road
 Reservoir Road
 Milford Square Pike
 Portzer Road
 Franklin Lane
 Morris Road
 Fairview Avenue
 Hellertown Street
 Perkasio Avenue
 Station Avenue
 Cemetery Road
 Ambler Street
 Woodland Avenue
 Penrose Street
 Walnut Street

Important information

1). **Do not place any other materials such as sticks, grass, or yard waste** with your leaves. These items clog the vacuum hose and will not be collected.

2). **Do not park vehicles on leaf piles.** We cannot collect leaves that are under vehicles. Hot mufflers and exhaust pipes may ignite the leaves and cause vehicle damage or loss.

Burning Prohibited in Richland Township

All open burning is prohibited in Richland Township. In September 2010, the Richland Township Board of Supervisors amended the Fire Prevention Ordinance to prohibit open burning in the Township.

Although the burning of waste had previously been prohibited, there were previously two short time periods in the spring and fall where the Township allowed residents to burn tree branches and brush, if the weather permitted. This exception has been eliminated and all burning is prohibited.

This prohibition to open burning does not apply to charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices, or for recreational fires for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. However, these allowable fires must be extinguished if the Police Department or Code Official finds that they are creating a

hazardous or objectionable situation.

Burning is also allowed for training of firefighting personnel when done under the supervision of the Fire Chief, provided that atmospheric conditions would not create offensive or objectionable smoke or odor on other premises.

Tree branches of not more than two inches in diameter or more than four feet in length and brush may be dropped off anytime during the year by the mulch pile located behind the Township's Municipal Building located at 1328 California Road. The branches should be bundled with string or rope. Do not use wire.

Also, the Township designates one week in May for the collection of any yard waste. During that week, the yard waste will be collected from the curb or roadside by the Township's Public Works Department. Tree stumps will not be accepted.

3). **A leaf drop-off area is available** for all residents. You may drop them off in the leaf bin behind the salt storage shed at the Township Building at 1328 California Road.

4). **WE NO LONGER ACCEPT LEAVES IN PLASTIC BAGS AT THE DROP OFF BIN. Dump bags out onto the pile and take the plastic bags away.** Leaves in paper bags are accepted.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact the Township's Public Works Director at 215-536-4066.

Holiday Closings

Richland Township offices will be closed on the following dates:

2016

Tues., Nov. 8 - Election Day
 Thurs., Nov. 24, & Fri., Nov. 25
 Thanksgiving
 Fri., Dec. 23, & Mon., Dec. 26
 Christmas

2016

Mon., Jan. 2 - New Year's Day
 Mon., Feb. 20 - Presidents' Day
 Fri., April 14 - Good Friday
 Tues., May 16 - Primary



Richland Township Golf Outing Special Thanks...

Golf Carts

Gilmore & Associates, Inc.

Dinner

Boucher & James, Inc.
Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority

Golf Course

Kwik Goal
Penn Community Bank

Golf Balls

Richland Township Water Authority

Lunch

Treadwell Law Offices PC

Cocktail Hour

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Select Properties

L/B Water Service, Inc.
The Minnis Group

Van Cleef Engineering
Asphalt Maintenance Solutions

Door Prize Contributors

Applebee's
Putt U Miniature Golf
Link Beverage
Pep Boys
Steel Ice Center
National Constitution Center
County Theater
Bucks County River Country
Philadelphia Art Museum
EZ Wash Autospa
Copperhead Grille
Pepper & Blue
Washington House / Sellersville Theater
Longwood Gardens

Hair Cuttery
Crayola Experience
Upper Bucks YMCA
Captain Bob's Seafood
Lost River Caverns
The West End Pub
Wehrung's
Grand Theater
Arnold's Fun Center
Taboo Salon
Weyerbacher Brewery
Critter Corral
Casa Toro
Split Rock Water Park



Making a Difference With Our Youth

by Supervisor Tim Arnold

We are fortunate in our community to have so many great youth organizations for our children to participate in, whether it's the Quakertown Soccer Club, Quakertown Youth Baseball, Quakertown Midget Football Association, Richland Area Softball Association, Catholic Youth Organization, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the list could go on. I would feel comfortable in saying that these organizations draw several hundred of our children away from the television and other electronic devices and gets them involved in group activities.

Although I appreciate all of these organizations and am happy that our children want to be involved in these organizations, most of my article is going to be directed to the volunteers who take the time and effort in making these organizations happen.

Sometimes we take these volunteers for granted; they are the foundation of these organizations. Could you imagine getting a phone call and being informed that your child cannot play sports or be involved with the scouts because nobody chose to volunteer their time to coach or become a scout leader?

Did you ever think why they do this? Sacrificing many hours of their time listening to parents complain about their child not playing enough, or because the scout meetings are too late at night? No, I don't think so. They do it because they care; yes, I said care. Not necessarily caring about our child learning how to tie a knot or how to catch a fly ball, but caring that the lessons that our children learn will be a life-learned lesson. Besides teaching our children to win, they also teach our children how to keep their head

high after losing and most importantly, letting the children have fun.

Eight years ago, one of the best decisions that I ever made was agreeing to coach for my daughter Sami's soccer team. I remember my first year coaching the 7 year old girls' team, and as I was calling parents and introducing myself, I had a parent tell me, "I just wanted to let you know that my child will spend more time picking flowers and chasing butterflies than she will be playing soccer." Well you know what, that parent was correct. Her child did spend more time picking flowers and chasing butterflies, and as I was walking back to my car, that same parent walked up to me and said, "I told you!" I just laughed and replied, "Yeah, I know, but she was smiling the entire time." That's why we do it!

Also, next time you go to the grocery store and you see these children standing out front with a bucket in their hand, forget about that second cup of fancy coffee and throw a buck or two into the basket or attend a fundraising event. It's getting harder and harder for these organizations to run without contributions and fundraisers. There are many youth organizations that had to dissolve because they lack the funds to operate. Earlier in my article, I talked about getting a call from an organization informing a parent that they didn't have a volunteer to help. Now imagine not having these organizations at all. I hope that never happens in our community.

A big shout out to all of these organizations and the many volunteers from these organizations for making our community a better place!

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Lehigh Valley Hospital: A Transforming Development in Richland

by Supervisor Rick Orloff

On September 12, 2016, the Board of Supervisors heard a proposal by Lehigh Valley Hospital to build a major medical campus at the intersection of Pumping Station Road and Route 309. It will take up about 100 acres of ground. The traffic improvements and mitigation alone are planned at \$20 million. And it will bring upwards of 500 high paying medical professional jobs into the area – noticeably adding to the tax base. An investment of this magnitude could easily reach a quarter billion.

It will be the largest development (residential or commercial) in Richland's history.

September 12 was just an introduction by the LVH folks. It has far to go. Sometimes these things fizzle out. But if it proceeds, it will transform Richland Township in profound ways. This is news, big news.

Shop With a Cop Donations

The annual Shop with a Cop program will occur on December 15, 2016. This program was designed to help disadvantaged children have a good Christmas. The officers donate their time for this event and it is solely funded by the donations of individuals and companies.

Officer Matt Lawhead of the Richland Township Police Department and Officer Bob Lee of the Quakertown Police Department are the lead officers for this year's event. If you are interested in donating to the program, Quakertown Borough has created a nonprofit tax exempt account where you can donate over the phone, in person, or by mail.

Please mail payments to:

ATTN: Shop with a Cop
Borough of Quakertown
35 North 3rd Street
Quakertown, PA 18951

Your support is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions please contact Officer Lee at 215-536-5002, ext. 5817, or email blee@quakertown.org.

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Park & Recreation News

Purchase Ski Tickets Here

The Township will again offer discount tickets for the following local ski resorts:

- Bear Creek
- Big Boulder
- Blue Mountain
- Camelback
- Shawnee Mountain



We have tickets for Adventure Aquarium, Baltimore Aquarium, Crayola Experience, and the Philadelphia Zoo until December 31, 2016.

Remember, we always have discount movie tickets for Regal Cinema for \$9.50. These make nice Christmas gifts!



The township accepts MasterCard VISA, and Discover credit cards as well as cash. Personal checks will be accepted from township residents only.

“Everything is changing. People are taking the comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.”

“People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing.”

“Lettin’ the cat out of the bag is a lot easier than puttin’ it back in.”

~ Will Rogers,
American Humorist

Volunteer

If you are interested in serving on a Township Board or Ad Hoc Committee

Call 215-536-4066
Ask for Laura

Or visit our website at www.richlandtownship.org.
Look on the FYI page for the Volunteer Information Form.
Fill it out and send it in!



Registration of Tenants

All owners of property leased for either residential or commercial occupancy must annually report the name and address of occupants to the township according to Ordinance No. 79 adopted February 24, 1986 by the Richland Township Board of Supervisors.

Appropriate forms are available at the township office or on our website at www.richlandtownship.org. Send form to: Richland Township, 1328 California Road, Suite A, Quakertown, PA 18951.

All tenants ages 18 and above must be reported, even if no rent is charged and the individual is directly related to the property owner.

For more information, please call 215-536-4066.



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The Richland Township Nature Trail: A Gem in Your Own Backyard

by Patty Marino

Nestled in the lush green backyard of Richland Township is a hidden gem, a .80-mile mulch covered nature trail loop that has four World Trail fitness stations dotted throughout the trail. If you add the asphalt-paved trail around the pickle ball and basketball courts, the trail is a bit over a mile. It is located at 1328 California Road in Richland Township.

The Richland Township Nature Trail is well worth the trip. You and your family can enjoy nature and participate in fitness together. If you have a keen eye, you will notice a plethora of tree types along the trail, such as a sugar maple, a tulip tree, a flowering dogwood, and a sassafras. A collaborative partnership among Richland Township employees and community volunteers is responsible for the neat mulch-covered trail.

The Richland Township Nature Trail has four World Trail fitness stations in which to incorporate bodyweight exercises. It is recommended that one completes the course at least three to five times a week to obtain maximum benefits for strength, agility and muscle tone. Each station has equipment for various exercises, with directions for use and modifications for different levels of challenge. Station One has equipment for a step-up routine and leg lift exercises. Station Two has parallel bars and chin-up bars. Station Three has a balance beam and inclined body curl equipment. Station Four has equipment for push-ups and a horizontal ladder. In addition to directions for proper equipment use, some stations also have periodic reminders to check your heart rate.

Most health experts agree that for best results, one should maintain



one's optimal heart rate (OHR) for 15-20 minutes. To find one's heart rate, count your pulse for 10 seconds. The suggested OHR varies according to your age. See below for suggested optimal heart rate and age groups:

Age	Optimal Heart Rate
up to 25 yrs	23-28
30 years	22-27
35 years	22-26
40 years	21-26
45 years	20-25
50 years	20-24
55 years	19-23
60 years	19-23
65 years and up	18-22

When you are finished with all exercises, it is best to cool down slowly until your pulse rate returns to a normal rate. As always, you should first check with your doctor before attempting any strenuous exercises.

Bodyweight exercises, such as those found at the Richland Township

Nature Trail, are an important component of any fitness program for many reasons. They are an efficient and no-cost way to burn fat and increase your strength and cardio. There is no expensive gym to join and they are always available for use. Bodyweight exercises increase your flexibility and your core strength. Core strength helps you increase your balance, gain better posture, relieve lower back stress and improve your overall performance. Finally, bodyweight exercises are challenging for all, and are generally safe for any exerciser, regardless of age, experience, and fitness level.

If the fitness stations are not for you, come out and enjoy nature's beauty on the trail. The tree-lined trail has its own gifts to share with you each season - colorful leaves in the fall, a snow-covered trail in the winter, flowering trees in the spring, and a shady retreat from the hot sun in the summer.

You may also see vernal pools in the spring. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands that fill after

Continued on next page



snowfall each spring. They make great seasonal breeding and feeding grounds for amphibians, insects, birds and mammals. Due to the seasonal nature of vernal pools, they are uninhabited by fish. This allows for amphibians and invertebrates to breed and develop their species. Some turtle species visit pools to feed on egg masses, while raccoons and snakes feed on frogs and tadpoles. Birds, like herons and red shouldered hawks, visit vernal pools to feed. In

the late spring and early summer, thousands of young salamanders leave the vernal pools to continue their metamorphic life cycle in the forest. A spotted salamander, a wood frog, and a spring peeper have all been observed on the Richland Township Nature Trail!

Because vernal pools dry up in late summer, they can be difficult to identify. You can become a "nature detective" and look for clues along the trail to see if a vernal pool once

inhabited the space. Clues that suggest an area collects water for part of the year include: blackened, compressed leaf litter, gray soil, water marks on surrounding tree trunks, and the presence of moisture tolerant vegetation.

So, come out and enjoy this beautiful and peaceful treasure that exists in your own backyard. You and your family will have fun, stay healthy and enjoy the great outdoors all year long!



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Sunset Richland Authority into Richland's Water Department – and cut rates!

by Rick Orloff, CPA

The editorial below does not represent the unified view of either the Township or the Supervisors. This editorial is the sole opinion of one Supervisor. The author did not ask Authority staff for any confirmation of the alleged facts or statements contained within the editorial.

Public officials should do the public's business as objectively and profitably on your behalf as possible. Should we not? Consider the Richland Township Water Authority:

Presently, about 2,100 homes and businesses are provided water service by RTWA. This is to Richland a "wholly owned subsidiary," legally classified as a "component unit," much as one corporation owning another. Richland's immediate powers are creating it, appointing its Board, or sun setting it, thereby making it a water department (*Quakertown Borough has had a water department for over a century*). As a business unit, it has value to the home municipality, like owning shares of a company stock.

RTWA does not benchmark well. For example, RTWA employs three full time employees. Daily inspections take about 2 hours on five facilities. The total service calls for the *THREE* years ended 12/31/15 were only 85 among three employees. Sometimes a service issue is five minutes, sometimes five hours. Automated billing is done four times annually (*about 2,100 customers*); by comparison, a regional Authority processes no less than 35,000 billings per customer service employee. Their field operators service 9 to 11 stations daily.

In 2015, a nearby township incurred about \$160,000 in labor for a sewer operation (*far more complex*) serving 3,300 customers. By comparison, RTWA incurred \$290,000 serving about 2,100 customers. The Perkasio Director makes about \$25,000 less in salary than does the RTWA Executive Director for over three times the customer base doing both water and sewer. The RTWA Director is paid at

least 15% more than his counterpart in Quakertown with over three times the customer base attending to a 120 year old system.

RTWA is too small to be staffed with three full time employees. It would have been best operated by a contracted licensed water operator with support from township staff (*a common business model for small systems*). Even with duties beyond the routine, there is not enough work to occupy three full time employees year round. In the private sector, this would not stand.

The fruits of these imbalances have been rate increases of 60% on your fixed charge and 33% on variable charges the past five years. At least a quarter of that could be avoided and still repealed. Causes include too much labor for too little work, years delay in changing a key operating arrangement, and duplications (*Solicitor, Accounting, Payrolls, Insurances, Board Stipends, etc.*). It has basically been organized more around one person, an employee who also sits on the Board of Supervisors, as opposed to the most cost effective manner on your behalf.

An Authority of the size and scope of RTWA is "back of the envelope" (meaning simple). In 2005-6, RTWA was flush with cash from new connection fees and development (paid for by new home owners and developers) and able to finance major projects. It was able to loan the Township \$1.5 million for Veterans Park. Both entities benefited via interest earnings and interest savings. In 2016, it can no longer do that. The cash position should be at least \$800,000, more than currently exists. (*That's about \$380 per customer.*) Consolidation into the township would save at least \$190,000 in Labor costs plus \$20-30,000 in miscellaneous costs – over 20% of its present budget – and over 20% of your rates. A rate cut is doable.

Ultimately you, the citizens, will have to decide whether to continue as is, or demand the proposed changes.



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Why Dissolving the Water Authority is One Supervisor's Worst Idea Yet

By Richland Township Water Authority Board of Directors

Township politics and feuding factions can have a lot of power in our local government if we let them, but the more we understand and educate ourselves to the truth, the less destructive influence and inappropriate control can be wielded for political gain.

One little known fact about municipal authorities is that the municipality that creates it (in this case Richland Township) can also disband it, without almost any oversight or input from the ratepayers who depend upon it daily. This fact is the law. However, it was not a law created to enable a township or borough to hastily dissolve a stand-alone, separately operating governmental unit without legitimate reason or studied forethought.

Supervisor Orloff has presented Township newsletter readers with a one-sided, and oft incorrect, accounting of the facts regarding your Water Authority. The Board of Directors of Richland Township Water Authority want to set the record straight.

Much like the Township which created it, your Water Authority has a local board of five appointed members who attend monthly meetings and make policy decisions to run the Water Authority efficiently, effectively and as a body separate and distinct from the whims of Township politics. Should the Supervisors dissolve your Water Authority, it will merely become a department of the Township with no separate supervision or importance. This was not the intention of the law as the law sees fit to provide a separate governing body for public services as important as water and sewer. It was certainly not the intention of the law to allow one supervisor's misguided agenda to sunset a municipal authority that has been serving its ratepayers well for over two decades.

Contrary to statements made in Mr. Orloff's editorial, the Water Authority does in fact "benchmark" incredibly

well. Your Water Authority serves over 6,800 people which is approximately 2,100 water service connections within Richland Township. In addition to handling all of the administrative, managerial and technical matters which are involved serving over 6,800 people, your Water Authority also handles all service calls for Richlandtown Borough and completes mandated inspections, checking the Borough's infrastructure twice daily, along with the four Township pump stations and six wells.

Mr. Orloff is correct that there are three full time employees of your Water Authority, but his understanding of the job responsibilities and duties of these three individuals is not accurate. The Executive Director of your Water Authority is not overpaid. As Mr. Orloff's editorial represents that another local authority director makes Twenty-Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000) per year less than your Water Authority's Director, let's examine it piece by piece.

First, your Water Authority has one administrative staff member, one un-licensed technician and one licensed operator. The local authority to which Mr. Orloff refers has approximately three times this amount in any given category.

Second, most authority managers, including the local authority which Mr. Orloff names, do not have an operator's license; however, your Water Authority's Executive Director does. In fact, this accounts for Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) in extra pay last year for our Executive Director to obtain the necessary licenses and certificates for him to be a licensed operator of our system. This extra pay will not appear in our Executive Director's pay this year. It was a one-time event. Not only does this allow for our Water Authority's Director to be a hands-on

Continued on page 21

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Garden Plots Available in Spring

If you want a garden but do not have the space, we have the answer for you. Several years ago, the Township started a community garden located on Station Road. There are currently 16 lots available.

It's so simple to get started - all you need to do is call the Township building at 215-536-4066 after March 1, 2017. Plots are rented on a first-come first-served basis. We will assign you a lot and stake it out for you, and then the rest of the fun of growing your own fruits and vegetables can begin.

The fee for a 12' x 20' plot is \$10.00. Reservation forms are available on our website at www.richlandtownship.org, click on FYI.

Plot Maintenance:

There is no water at the site, so each gardener is responsible for making his/her own accommodations.

All gardeners are to maintain their plots in a reasonable manner. Weeds and garden debris can serve as cover and food for undesirable insects, rodents, and other vermin.

Lots that are not maintained will be considered abandoned.

Gardening is permitted from dawn to dusk.

No fertilizer or commercial pesticides are permitted.
No shade producing plants over 4' tall are permitted
NO CORN IS PERMITTED!

No metal stakes, fencing or plant supports are permitted, as it may damage the tilling equipment. All metal materials used will be removed by the Township.

No permanent structures or fencing is permitted.

Tools, supplies, and related gardening equipment left at a garden plot site are left at your own risk and must be left in a tidy manner and within your plot limits.

Please clean up after yourself. Richland Township will not provide trash services.

Your Responsibility to Fellow Gardeners:

Please do not block garden paths with vehicles, equipment, or debris.

Highly invasive plants are not allowed.

At no time should you build a structure or plant anything that will shade or interfere with another plot.

End of Year Responsibilities:

Remove all non-organic materials including fencing, stakes, and rain barrels.

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Water Authority

Continued from Page 19

manager but it also permits the Water Authority to forgo contracts with outside service providers to utilize other's water operator licenses. This is a significant savings to your Water Authority.

Third, your Water Authority Executive Director has been performing his duties since 2001, whereas the other local authority director was only recently promoted. That said, the neighboring authority's current director's predecessor was making a salary commensurate with the experience of our Executive Director.

Finally, and distinctly missing from the article written by Mr. Orloff, is Twelve Thousand dollars (\$12,000). This is the payment from Richlandtown Borough for services discussed above and performed by your Water Authority employees at no additional cost to the Water Authority. None of the employees of the Water Authority benefits from this agreement or extra money. In fact, the money goes directly back into the coffers of your Water Authority.

In an effort not to belabor readers by refuting each and every one of the alleged facts or perplexing statements (whether purposeful or not) written by Mr. Orloff, it can be simply stated that our billing is not automated, there were not only Eighty-five (85) "service calls" in three (3) years. Three (3) full time employees for one authority is not excessive or wasteful and finally your rates were not

raised by 60% because the Water Authority has wasted your money.

The truth is that your Water Authority is operating exactly as it should, independently under the supervision of a five (5) member Board of Directors who set all policy. As is true of most entities, rates and/or pricing must be evaluated and examined according to the rules and regulations which guide that entity. This was done. Water rates needed to be raised to meet the growing demand of the community and continue to serve the ratepayers tending to the infrastructure and daily activities which all authorities must meet.

Specifically, the money which Mr. Orloff somehow believes should be "refunded" to ratepayers because it was misspent or wasted was actually used for improvements to your water system. These improvements consist of items such as the addition of a much needed water storage tank to improve system pressure and fire flow, filtration systems for iron, manganese and arsenic which were added to three (3) Authority treatment plants along with refurbishing one (1) well and adding a supplemental water source to protect our water system. We also constructed the Western Loop of our water system to increase water quality throughout the system.

The fact that your Water Authority was once able to loan the Township over One Million and Seven Hundred Thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) should not be held against the Water Authority. It was the pleasure of the Water Authority to be able to assist the Township and our citizens. That is all this Water Authority desires: the opportunity to once again work seamlessly alongside but separate from the Township without the fear of one supervisor's opinion replacing the many satisfied customers of your Water Authority.

Richland's Voting Precincts

Richland 1

If you live south of Raub Road and east of Route 309, you will cast your ballots at the Richland Elementary School just off Route 313.

Richland 2

If you live in the northeast section of the township, north of Raub Road and east of the Railroad Tracks, you will cast your ballot at the Richland Township Municipal building located on California Road.

Richland 3

If you live in the northwest section, west of the railroad tracks and north of Cemetary Road and Milford Square Pike, you will cast your ballot at Grace Bible Fellowship Church on Old Bethlehem Pike near Stonegate Road.

Richland 4

If you live in the southwest portion of the township, south of Mill Road and west of Route 309, you will cast your ballot at First Church of the Brethren, 455 Trumbauersville Road.

**DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE!**

**Election Day
November 8, 2016**

Polls Open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

POLLING PLACES

Richland 1: Richland Elementary School
Fairview Avenue

Richland 2: Municipal Building
California Road

Richland 3: Grace Bible Fellowship Church
Old Bethlehem Pike

Richland 4: First Church of the Brethren
Trumbauersville Road



From the Zoning Office

by Rich Brittingham

Permits are required for:

1. Change of Use of Occupancy
2. Construction of a new building
3. Structural alterations or repairs
4. Signage
5. Adding new structures, additions or dwelling units
6. Sheds, fences, swimming pools, concrete patios, paver patios, parking lots and driveways
7. Plumbing fixtures, installed or replaced
8. Well drilling
9. Moving or relocating a building
10. Demolition, razing (Ordinance #191)

11. Earth disturbance over 1,000 sq.ft. (Ordinance #210)

All applications for Building and Zoning Permits should include the following information:

1. Plot plan including lot dimensions, building setbacks, proposed construction location, existing structures and easements
2. Description of the proposed construction
3. Estimated cost of construction
4. Type of occupancy (present and proposed use)
5. Name, address, and telephone number of owner, contractor and authorized agent

Developments Under Consideration

1. **Front Gate Community**
13 Mid-rise buildings, 402 units (Age Qualified 55+)
46.26 acres located along Station Road behind Q-mart
2. **Reserve at Woodside Creek**
75 Single family
101.7 acres located on the south side of Paletown Road & Rocky Ridge Road
3. **Steeple Run**
39 Single family
21.1 acres located on the north side of Paletown Road
4. **Tollgate Crossing**
30 Single family
65.7 acres located on the south side of Tollgate Road
5. **Select Properties - Twin Lakes**
107 Single family
54.3 acres located on the east side of Old Bethlehem Pike
6. **Prospect Acquisitions, LP**
40 Townhomes
26 acres located along Heller Road
7. **380 Trumbauersville Road**
37 Single Family
28.1 acres located on the northwest side of Trumbauersville Road

Developments Under Construction

1. **Renaissance at Morgan Creek**
141 Single family (Age Qualified 55+)
101 acres located on the south side of Station Road
2. **Arbours at Morgan Creek**
134 Townhomes/multiplex units (Age Qualified 55+)
89.2 acres located on the north side of W. Paletown Road

Commercial/Industrial Projects under Consideration

1. **Pavillion at Richland**
14.06 acres located at the SE corner of N. West End Blvd. & West Pumping Station Road
Proposed multiple commercial use

Commercial/Industrial Projects under Construction

1. **Quaker Alliance, LLC**
1.022 acres located on the southwest corner of S. West End Blvd. & Tollgate Road
Proposed Multiple Commercial Use
Dunkin Donuts & California Tortilla
2. **SW Quakertown CVS LP**
2.75 acres located on the southeast corner of S. West End Blvd. & Tollgate Road
Proposed E2 Large Retail Store (CVS Pharmacy)
3. **Cemetery Road, LLC**
3.5 acres located along California Road & Cemetery Road
Proposed D1 Office Use

Permits Available Online:

Permit applications are available on our website at www.richlandtownship.org. These include: Zoning and Building Permit; Shed, Deck and Pool Permit (also for fences & patios); and Sign Permit.

Also available are the Subdivision & Land Development Application, 2016 Fee Schedule, Escrow Agreement; the Zoning Board Application, and the Conditional Use Application.

Click on BLDG & ZONING.



BCWSA is offering the **SafeGuard Water & Sewer Maintenance Program** for Residential and Commercial properties. This program is designed to help customers offset the cost of repairing the water service line and the sewer lateral that run from the outside of your home/building to the curb, which can typically cost up to \$5,000 for residential and up to \$10,000 for a commercial property to replace.

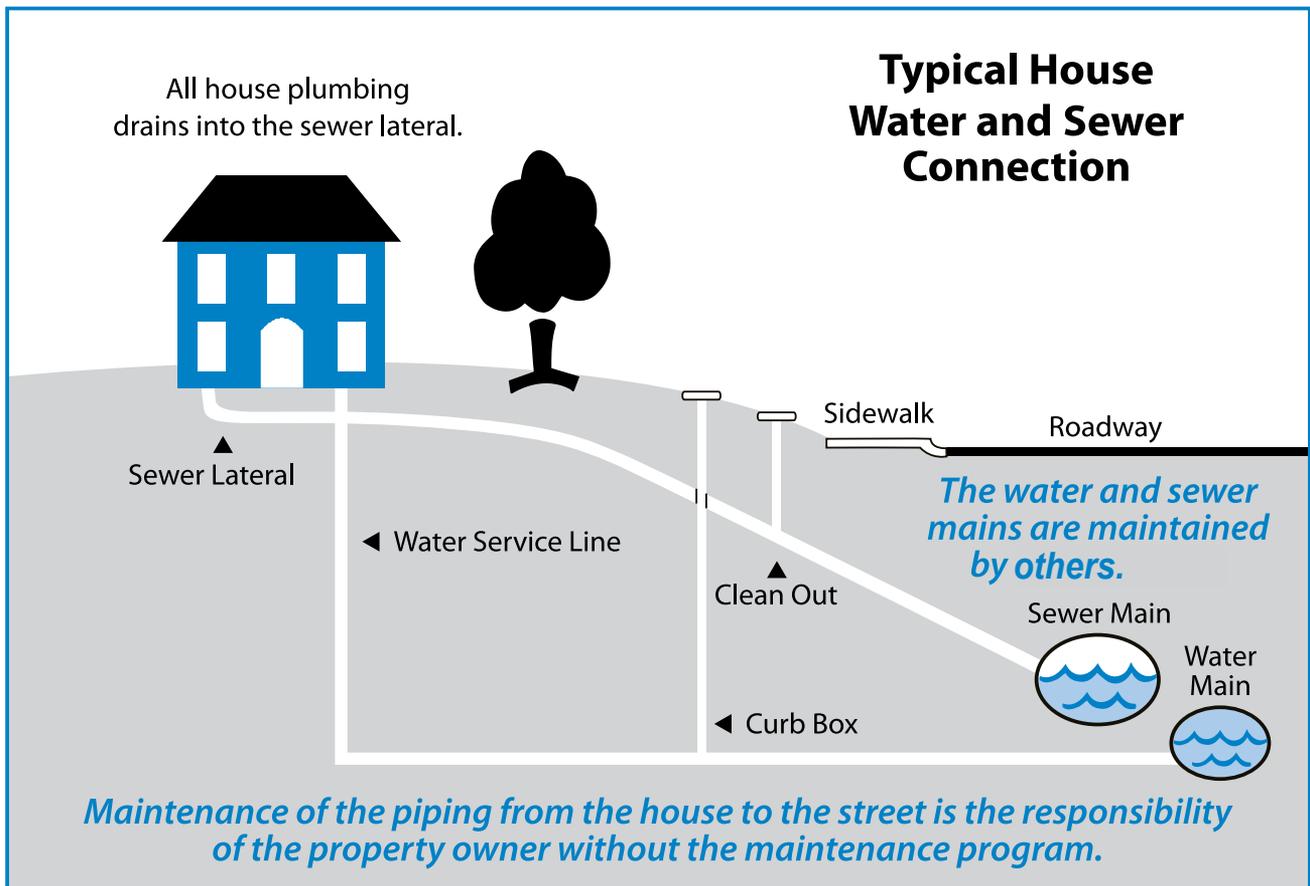
Under this program residential properties pay \$5.00 a month per service line and commercial \$10.00 a month per service line for coverage.

This program is also available to Non-BCWSA customers in Bucks County & Montgomery County

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(Office located at 520 Station Road)
215-536-6603
richlandtownshiptaxcollector.webs.com

The Township building is open for business Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All minutes, financial reports, ordinances, resolutions, contracts, agreements, sub-division plans, etc., for the Township are available for public inspection. Copies are charged at \$.25 per page.

MEETING SCHEDULES

All meetings are open to the public. The following meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building:



Board of Supervisors	Second Monday of the month
Planning Commission	Third Tuesday of the month
Water Authority	Second Thursday of the month
Park and Recreation Board	Fourth Wednesday of the month
Trails Committee	Fourth Wednesday of the month
Preservation Board	Second Wednesday of the month
Zoning Hearing Board	As advertised when required

Community/Police Liaison Board

Fourth Tuesday of the month
7:00 p.m. at the Police Building