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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Like the rest of America, we have a strong attachment to our vehicles. For some of us it's a love affair. The vast majority of our Township was built up during and after the 1950's, when the car became the dominant mode of transportation in America. It was during that time that the Interstate Highway System was begun, when cars became more than just vehicles, they became part of our identity. It was during the 1950's when Bill Levitt and the Danherst Corporation built most of the homes in Falls Township, laid out with tree lined roads and driveways for all those people who could move to our community and drive back and forth to work. Our community is one built around the roads we drive on.

This is why traffic safety is such a major issue in Falls Township. The roads in our community are meant to be shared by all of us, and used responsibly. Complaints about speeding, ignoring traffic signals and reckless driving are the most consistent complaints received by the Supervisors, Police Department and Township Administration. We try to take every complaint as seriously as we can but with over 80 miles of roadway in Falls Township, there is only so much we can do. To help us with this problem, the Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee (NTAC) was formed earlier this year, and has recently released a report on the work they have done so far. The NTAC is made up of volunteers from the community, and representatives from the Police, Public Works and the Board of Supervisors. Together they field complaints from the public and create a plan of action for addressing issues on different roads in Falls Township. We are proud of the work they have done already and the report they wrote can be read on the Falls Township website.

What the NTAC, Board of Supervisors and Police cannot do though is solve every traffic issue. As the days get shorter and its dark earlier the risk of traffic accidents increases. We also see too many young people riding unlicensed vehicles on the roadway, often without helmets. All we can do is try to communicate the importance of traffic safety to all our residents, and to stress how important it is for all of the people who use our roads to drive safely and respect the rules of the road, and each other.

Robert J. Harvie, Jr.

STOWNS

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188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100 • Fairless Hills, PA 19030 Visit our website at www.fallstwp.com





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FALLS TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100 ⋅ Fairless Hills, PA 19030 Website: www.fallstwp.com ⋅ Email: admin@fallstwp.com Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Robert J. Harvie, Jr, Chairman Jeffry Dence, Vice Chairman

Administrative Offices - 215-949-9000

After you press 6 for Township Information the

following numbers indicate each department:

Police Information – Press 5

Peter Gray, Township Manager

Township Manager - 7

Township Information – Press 6

Jeffrey Rocco, Secretary/Treasurer Brian Galloway, Supervisor

Thomas Bennett, Zoning Officer/CCEO

Richard Dippolito, Fire Marshal

Public Works Department – 3

Joseph Arnao, Foreman

Parks & Recreation – 4 Brian Andrews, Director

Environmental - 2

Fire Marshal Emergency Management,

Code Enforcement, Permit Information - 1

Jeff Boraski, Supervisor

Finance Department – 5 Betsy Reukauf, Director

Tax Office – 6 Kimberly Crawford (Scarpiello)

Police Department – 215-949-9100 William J. Wilcox, Chief of Police

Animal Control - 215-945-3100

Falls Township Tax Collector Kimberly Crawford (Scarpiello) 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 108 Fairless Hills, PA 19030 215-949-9008 Township Engineer James C. Sullivan T and M Associates 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 206 Fairless Hills, PA 19030 215-486-5770 Township Solicitor Michael P. Clarke Rudolph Clarke, LLC. Seven Nesahminy Interplex, Suite 200 Trevose, PA 19053 215-633-1890 District Court 07-1-10 Jan Vislosky, District Judge 9187 New Falls Road Fallsington, PA 19054 215-736-0231

FROM THE FALLS TOWNSHIP POLICE

• Retirement

We would like to send our best wishes to **Officer John Trindle** who retired on August 1, 2014. Officer Trindle retired after 33 of service.

It has been an honor to have worked with you. Thank you again for all your years of dedicated service. We wish you and your family all the best in your well-earned retirement. You will be missed.

• New Hire

We would like to welcome **James Szamboti** to the department. He graduated from the Temple Police Academy and has started his field training.

• Facebook & Twitter

Falls Township Police Department is now



on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us to get information on what's going on in your neighborhood.

• Falls Township Anonymous Tip Line: 215-949-9120

Falls Township Police has created a tip line allowing members of the public to contact the police department anonymously. Members of the public are encouraged to report suspicious individuals or activity. Tips are then analyzed and passed on to the appropriate division for

follow-up. Because the tip line is anonymous, the sender will not receive a response. The tip line is not an emergency number. If you witness a crime in progress or have an emergency that requires the police, please call 911.



Continued on page 3...

Continued from page 2...FROM THE FALLS TOWNSHIP POLICE

Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in your area.



Neighborhood Watch is a group of concerned citizens, joining together to assist local law enforcement in identifying and reporting suspicious or criminal activities in their neighborhoods.

By taking an active role in the protection of their homes and families, residents are better able

to discourage criminal activity and keep their neighborhoods safe.

For more information please contact: Corporal Michael Wolverton, 215-949-9100 x326, wolvertonpd@fallstwp.com or Officer John Yeager, 215-949-9100 x434, yeagerpd@fallstwp.com

• Rapid Recovery Program



When an autistic child or an adult with dementia wanders off and gets lost, finding them quickly sometimes can make a difference between life and death. The Rapid Recovery Program is a tracking system that consists of a small wrist bracelet worn

by someone that is at risk of wandering. It is designed to locate missing special-needs children as well as Alzheimer and dementia patients. This bracelet transmits a signal for up to a mile radius, allowing search and rescue efforts to be quicker, finding the individual in minutes instead of hours. This program is available to all Falls Township residents and surrounding communities. If you know anyone who would benefit from this program or would like additional information regarding Rapid Recovery, please contact Faith at the Falls Township Police Department 215-949-9100 x303.

• Citizen Police Academy

The Falls Township Police Department is conducting a 13-week Citizen Police Academy for Township residents which began September 3, 2014.

This program is designed to educate Township residents about department procedures, responsibilities and demands on police officers. Some of the topics that will be covered include; an overview of the



department's structure, recruitment and training, interview techniques, a visit to the (911) county radio room, traffic enforcement, and also observe court hearings at the local District Justice. In addition, participants will be given an opportunity to "ride along" with a patrol officer.

If you missed this class or were unable to attend follow us on Facebook, Twitter or the Township web page for upcoming classes.

• Falls Township Police will host "Coffee with a Cop" each month.



Coffee with a Cop will allow Police and community members to come together in an informal, neutral space to sit down with a mix of officers, detectives, sergeants, lieutenants and the Chief to ask questions, discuss happenings in the area, voice concerns, and get to know the officers who patrol their areas. This is a great way to strengthen police-community partnership and build friendships throughout the community.

Coffee with a Cop is just another way to allow our residents to make Falls Township a better place to live.

Check our website, Facebook or Twitter for coming dates...



Swearing in of Officer James Szamboti



From left to right: Peter Gray, Township Manager, Officer James Szamboti and Bill Wilcox, Chief of Police



Township of Falls: Office of the Fire Marshal

188 Lincoln Highway · Fairless Hills · PA · 19030 (215) 949-9000 ext. 250 (O) • (215) 949-2306 (F) www.fallsfiremarshal.org

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

IF YOU SMOKE, SMOKE OUTSIDE. Provide smokers with large, deep, sturdy ashtrays. Wet cigarette butts and ashes before throwing them out or bury them in sand. Never smoke in bed. Never smoke if medical oxygen is used in the home.

GIVE SPACE HEATERS SPACE. Keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn – including you. Shut off and unplug heaters when you leave your home or go to bed. Always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet, never into an extension cord or a power strip.

STAY IN THE KITCHEN WHEN FRYING FOOD. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the burner and move the pan to a cool burner. Use a timer when cooking. If you are cooking on the stovetop and leave the room, take a timer, an oven mitt, or a wooden spoon as a reminder that you have something cooking. If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner. Don't cook if you are drowsy from alcohol or medication. Wear tight-fitting, rolled up, or short sleeves when cooking.

IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH FIRE: STOP, DROP, AND ROLL. Stop, drop gently to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth to put out the fire.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES. Have

smoke detectors installed on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure the alarms are interconnected so when one sounds, they



all sound. Test them once a month, and change the batteries when you change your clocks. Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE FROM FIRE AND SMOKE. If possible, plan two ways out of every room in your home and two ways out of your home. Make sure windows and doors open easily. If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBER. If an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE AROUND YOUR ABILITIES. Have a landline telephone or cell phone and charger near your bed, with the local emergency number posted nearby in case you are trapped by smoke or fire. Consider subscribing to a medical alert system, which will provide you with a button you wear around your neck or on your wrist. If you have an emergency, just push the button and the service will send emergency responders. Have other necessary items near your bed such as medications, glasses, wheel chair, walker, scooter, or cane. Keep a flashlight and whistle near your bed to signal for help.

FALL PREVENTION TIPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

EXERCISE REGULARLY. Exercise regularly to build strength and improve your balance and coordination. Ask your doctor about the best physical exercise for you.

TAKE YOUR TIME. Get out of chairs slowly. Sit a moment before you get out of your bed. Stand and get your balance before you walk. Be aware of your surroundings.



KEEP STAIRS AND WALKING AREAS CLEAR. Keep stairs and walking areas free of electrical cords, shoes, clothing, books, magazines, and other treasures.

IMPROVE THE LIGHTING IN AND OUTSIDE YOUR HOME. Use nightlights or flashlights to light the path between your bedroom and the bathroom. Turn on the lights before using the stairs. See an eye specialist once a year – better vision can help prevent falls.

USE NON-SLIP MATS. Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors. Have grab bars installed on the wall next to the bathtub, shower, and toilet. Wipe up spilled liquids immediately.

BE AWARE OF UNEVEN SURFACES. Be aware of uneven surfaces indoors and outdoors. Use only throw rugs that have rubber, non-skid backing. Consider placing non-skid rug pads under rugs. Always smooth out wrinkles and folds in carpeting. Be aware of uneven sidewalks and pavement outdoors. Ask a family member or friend to clear ice and snow from outside stairs and walkways and always use hand rails if available. Step carefully.

STAIRWAYS SHOULD BE WELL LIT. Stairways should be well lit from both the top and the bottom. Have easy-to-grip handrails installed along the full length of both sides of the stairs.

WEAR STURDY, WELL FITTING SHOES. Wear sturdy, well-fitting, low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles. These are safer than high heels, thick–soled athletic shoes, slippers, or stocking feet.

GOLDEN BAMBOO – A BEAUTIFUL GRASS BUT A BOTANICAL BULLY!

By Joann Cosgrove, Chair of Shade Tree Commission

olden Bamboo (Phyllostachys aurea) was introduced to this country from Asia in **J**1882 to be used an ornamental grass. It is frequently planted as a privacy screen because it grows so quickly. This ability to grow and spread has actually resulted in a plant that is anything but neighborly. It can grow up to 30 ft tall with stems 6 inches in diameter. It spreads rapidly by forming underground stems (rhizomes) that sprout new stems until an impenetrable thicket results. Once started, it is extremely difficult to control and it has been identified as a plant of great concern by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The absolute best way to manage Bamboo is to not plant it in the first place. Prevention is golden in the case of Golden Bamboo. However it can be managed if it is already on your property. Cutting it down to the ground as soon as possible and then keeping it mowed down is one strategy. Herbicides can also be applied following label directions in the Fall and again in the Spring. Because of its tenacity several applications and continued cutting needs to be done until it is eliminated. For more detailed information on management go the DCNR website at http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010270.pdf

> Photo with permission from James R Allison, Georgia Dept of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org



SO YOU THINK ZONING ISN'T IMPORTANT ?

"Before zoning became a widely accepted practice, cities mostly regulated what could be built through nuisance laws. If someone didn't like how their neighbor was using their property, they could haul them to trial and let a judge decide what to do about it."

(http://www.citylab.com/politics/2012/06/birth-zoning-code s-history/2275/). There were no laws in place to govern what could be built and where it could be built. That all changed in the early 1900's as property owners became vocal with local officials and demanded that the government officials address these issues. As a result, zoning became relevant.

What is zoning exactly? Simply put, zoning is a series of local laws adopted by government officials who designate different categories for properties within its boundaries for both present and future uses. The adoption of a law in this regard is called an ordinance. Most municipalities have adopted zoning ordinances. Zoning ordinances specify not only the type of zoning district (commercial, residential, industrial,

etc.), but detail the permitted and prohibited uses for that particular zoning district.

Why is this important? Zoning allows municipalities to plan how their township is laid out and designate particular areas within its

boundaries for specific uses. For instance, it allows officials to concentrate commercial or industrial type uses away from a residential area.

Zoning is also important within a specific zoning district. Let's say your next door neighbor wants to build a three-story accessory structure to run a machine shop on his property. The neighbor would need to submit a letter of intent indicating the intended use of the structure. He would also have to submit plans and a building permit application detailing all the information on where the structure is being placed on the property. The zoning officer would determine the zoning district within which the property lies and determine whether such a structure could be built and how close to the property line it could be placed.

As you can see, zoning isn't important until it affects you!

Zoning is an important part of maintaining a balance

within any municipality for both its present and future needs. Our zoning ordinances and zoning map are our website available on at www.fallstwp.com.

FALLS TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

A s summer comes to a close, Falls Township Parks and Recreation would like to thank you for Making this summer season a memorable one! The 2014 Family Festival and Que for the Troops was a huge success. The two-day event entertained record numbers of Falls Township residents while raising money for the Liberty USO. We also enjoyed making summer camp memories with your children, keeping cool at the Pinewood Pool, and getting adults moving in our Adult Kickball League! Be sure to check our website and facebook page, as new programming is being added regularly!

Upcoming Events and Programs

Visit www.fallstwp.com for more information on Fall and Winter Programming, including Youth Kickball, Young Rembrandts art classes, babysitting courses, CPR/First Aid courses, Teen Dodgeball tournament, Parents' Nights Out and much more! Information will also be available for special events, including the Falls Township Fall Festival, Children's Halloween Party, Tree Lighting, Santa Breakfast, and more!

Online Registration is Here!

Registration for many of our programs is now available through online registration! It is now simple and convenient to register for courses and programs online and pay with a credit card. Once you set up your family account, you are ready to register from home for many of our programs!



FALLS TOWNSHIP MILESTONES

alls Township would like to recognize staff members for reaching certain milestones in their employment.

Five year milestone:

Stephanie A. Metterle Matthew T. Killeen Deborah Perkiss Edward R. Neubauer

Ten year milestone:

Dennis O'Connell Maria A. Lopez George J. Thomas

Fifteen year milestone:

Peter F. Gray Jeffrey T. Omlor Steven T. Langan Barbara A. Loessy

Twenty-five year milestone:

Bruce Rhodunda Michael J. Wolverton Scott Gowton

Thirty year milestone:

Yale Gottenberg Martial Belinsky John T. Martin Faith Friedhofer

Over thirty-five year milestone: William J. Wilcox



COMPOST BINS

alls Township currently has 80-gallon Earth Machine™ Compost Bins available for purchase for \$45 at the Municipal Building.

The Earth Machine[™] is a durable backyard compost bin designed to compost food and yard waste, effectively diverting it from landfills. The resulting compost can be used in lawns and gardens to provide much needed nutrients, while helping to retain moisture in the soil. Using compost on your gardens returns organic material back into the natural cycle and promotes a healthy soil ecosystem. The result is significantly higher yields, with a substantial reduction in soil erosion.

The Earth Machine[™] is designed for easy, passive composting – just start filling the bin, water, and occasionally stir or poke. The finished compost is ready in four to six months.

According to the EPA, one person generates an average of approximately 1.35 pounds of organic waste per day. That equals almost 500 pounds per person every year! Backyard composting is an effective way of recycling organic wastes such as leaves, grass and food scraps that are generated at home and usually put out to the curb for disposal.

For additional information, please contact the Falls Township Finance Department at (215) 949-9000, press 6, then press 5 to be connected.



RAIN BARRELS

alls Township currently has **55-gallon Rain Barrels** available for purchase at the Falls Township Municipal Building.

A rain barrel is a great way to keep stormwater out of the system and cut down on your water bill! Only 1/4 inch of rainfall runoff from the average roof will completely fill a typical barrel providing an ample supply of free "soft water" containing no chlorine, lime or calcium. Rainwater is ideal for watering plantings, vegetable gardens and lawns as well as washing your car or windows. In the event of a water shortage, drought or water supply contamination, a rain barrel provides you with an emergency water supply.



Collecting rainwater is easy using a rain barrel! Simply position the barrel below the water downspout of your roof. The barrels are neutral in color to easily blend in anywhere around your house. Full installation instructions as well as an overflow hose, clamp and faucet are included with the rain barrel at a price of \$57. For additional information, please contact the Falls Township Finance Department at (215) 949-9000, press 6, then press 5 to be connected.

Recycling Information

RECYCLING SUSPENDED

Please be advised that the "Free TV and Computer Recycling Drop Off Center" that was taking place every Wednesday at Waste Management, 2505 Old Rodgers Rd, Bristol, PA 19007 is being temporarily suspended. When this service becomes available again, the Township will notify residents.

Some other options would be contacting stores such as Best Buy or Staples, or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242 or Bucks County Planning Commission – 215-345-3400 www.buckscounty.org/recycling



2014 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Leaf Collections Will Be Made By Waste Management on the Following Dates:



November 15 • November 29

Leaves MUST be bagged in 30-gallon biodegradable PAPER BAGS or placed in 30-gallon trash containers WITHOUT LIDS. They are to be placed curbside by 6am on collection day in the same location as your regular trash pick-up. **LEAVES IN ANY OTHER CONTAINER WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.**

2015 CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Think Green ... Compost Your Christmas Tree

Christmas trees will be picked up for composting on Saturday, January 3rd and Saturday, January 10, 2015 by Waste Management, Bristol.

Please do not put trees out for pickup prior to the January 3rd tree composting collection date. Trees will not be picked up prior to January 3rd or during the week between the two pickup dates. After the January 10th pickup date, trees can be put out with the regular trash.

Christmas trees over 6 ft. (or excessively large) must be cut in half. Please remove plastic bags and all decorations from the tree.

As in previous years, Waste Management has a collection container available throughout the month of January at their Scale House area, 1400 Bordentown Road, Morrisville, PA for anyone who wishes to drop off their tree for composting free of charge.

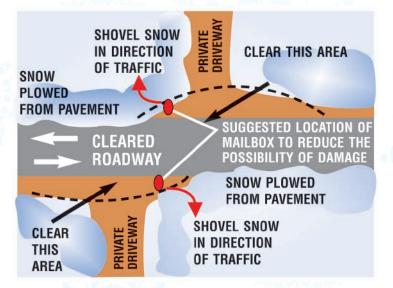
Public Works Department

How can you help our Public Works department this winter?

By following a few simple guidelines during a winter storm, you can help us as well as yourself:

- Be patient.
- Remove your vehicles from the street when it snows.
- Shovel your driveway and sidewalk, but wait until the Township plows your street to shovel your apron.
- * Do not put snow shoveled from your driveway and sidewalk into the street.
- * When you using a snowblower, turn the discharge apparatus away from the street.

By following these guidelines, you will allow a more efficient clearing of the many miles of Township roads and allow better drainage when the snow starts to melt.



Snow and Ice Control on State Roads

The following list of roads are maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. For emergencies, complaints or information about state roads, please contact PENNDOT by calling (215) 345-6060:

Big Oak Road Bordentown Road Bristol Oxford Valley Road Fallsington Tullytown Road Hood Boulevard Levittown Parkway Lincoln Highway Lower Morrisville Road New Falls Road New Ford Mill Road New Route 13 Newbold Road Old Bristol Road Old Route 13 Oxford Valley Road Penn Valley Road Pennsbury Road Philadelphia Avenue Pine Grove Road South Pennsylvania Avenue Stony Hill Road Trenton Road Tyburn Road U.S. Route 1 West Trenton Avenue Woolston Drive



Lowest priced new construction in Pennsbury School District starting from the \$270's!*

For more information contact us at 610-316-4328 or www.ryland.com

*Prices, offers, financing and availability subject to change without notice. See a Sales Counselor for details.



www.nfpa.org/education

Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

t's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

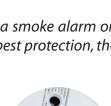
- Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
- Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote build-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry**, **seasoned wood**.
- Our fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- □ We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any *nearby buildings.*)
- Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off.**
- Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn-off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
- □ We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. (You need a smoke alarm on every level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)
- □ We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)



















The Township would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. We would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.





Falls Township 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100 Fairless Hills, PA 19030 PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID HARRISBURG, PA PERMIT NO. 609





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