

East Caln

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER WINTER • SPRING 2017

PARKS & RECREATION EVENTS

Do you enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween in the Park, or the shredding events sponsored by East Caln Township? Are you interested in helping organize these or other events? East Caln Township is seeking volunteers to serve on the Park & Recreation Board in 2017. To learn more, stop by the Township Office or complete a volunteer form online. The 2017 event schedule will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

NOT SIGNED UP to receive information and updates from the Township automatically? Then please go to www.eastcalntownship.com and sign up for alerts **TODAY!**

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

January 12th

Curb side pick-up for trees and wreaths. Please make sure to remove ALL tinsel, decorations and plastic bags from trees **OR THEY WILL BE LEFT AT CURB.** Also the monthly branch pick-ups will continue for 2017.

SPRING LEAF PICK-UP DATES

April 8th & May 13th

All leaves must be in biodegradable paper bags.

No Tax Increase for 2017!



The East Caln Township Board of Supervisors adopted the 2017 Budget without an increase in the property tax—the **ninth straight year with no increase**. The rate will remain the same 1.25 mills per each \$1,000 of assessed property valuation.

Your township real estate tax helps fund the services that make East Caln Township a great place to live, including police protection, fire and ambulance services, snow removal, road maintenance, trash, recycling monthly branch pick-ups and seasonal leaf collections. In addition, Bell Tavern Park offers amenities for all ages, and the East Caln Township Park and Recreation Board sponsors programs throughout the year.

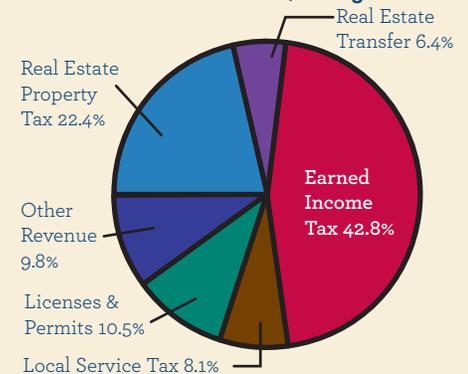
BUDGET SUMMARY

Revenue Sources	General Fund
Real Estate Property Tax	\$593,229
Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$170,000
Earned Income Tax	\$1,130,770
Local Services Tax	\$213,200
Licenses & Permits	\$277,640
Other Revenue	\$258,910
	\$2,643,749

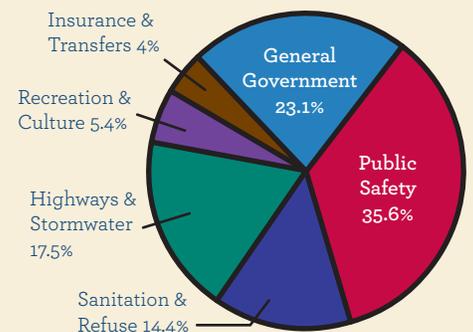
Expenditures	General Fund
General Government	\$609,857
Public Safety	\$940,638
Sanitation & Refuse	\$380,860
Highways & Stormwater	\$461,790
Recreation & Culture	\$143,165
Insurance & Transfers	\$105,372
	\$2,641,681

Net Surplus \$2,067

Revenue Sources - 2017 Budget



Expenditures - 2017 Budget



Winter Operations & Safety

GETTING READY FOR WINTER



Regardless of whether there's snow on the ground, you can take steps to prepare yourself for winter and all that it brings.

Preparation is key to successfully navigating winter roads. Winter weather can bring unexpected conditions, so make sure that your vehicle is ready for ice and snow.

For the majority of Pennsylvania, all-season radial tires that are mud and snow rated are appropriate for winter driving. In areas of the state that experience more snow, motorists may choose to install dedicated winter tires or carry a set of tire chains or cables.

When traveling have all addresses handy and consider putting them in your GPS before you set off. Make sure you have back-up chargers—the multi-port chargers are the best.

And in addition to preparing your vehicle, carrying an emergency kit in your car is an easy but important way to make sure you're ready for the season. And let's not forget the pets when traveling be sure to have a safe pet harness and pet kit with food, water and toys of course.

IS YOUR MAILBOX READY FOR WINTER?



There are ways that you can ensure that your mailbox is ready for winter.

PennDOT allows property owners to place mailboxes within the limits of the legal right-of-way, out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery. But because those boxes are within the right-of-way, damages are the responsibility of the property owner.

Be sure your mailbox has a strong support. You may also wish to use reflective tape or other material to make it easier to see during storms or during dark hours. Check your box and support often, clearing snow from it and depositing the snow properly and in a manner to allow you and motorists proper sight distances (and never on the roadway).

Also be sure your house numbers are visible at all times so they are not covered in snow so emergency responders can quickly find your home.



SNOW REMOVAL

Our snow removal contractor is Harlan Construction. They were awarded the contract earlier this year.

Once the snow arrives, please be patient with the removal process. All main roads are opened first. During heavy storms, an initial pass is made on the secondary roads and then they come back and widen.

It is always best to wait till the end of storm before clearing your driveways as they will be pushing the snow further back. Please don't throw snow into the roadway!

SNOW IS COMING: Please be safe and considerate. If you have a fire hydrant on your property please clear the snow away so if there is an emergency, the emergency responders can get to it quickly. Here is a photo of one of your neighbors in action doing a fine job of clearing his hydrant.



Thanks Mr. Zeigler, good job!





EMERGENCY CONTACTS

EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE

Dial 911

NON-EMERGENCY POLICE After Midnight & Weekends

(610) 383-7000 (Dispatched through the Chester County Police Radio)

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

8:00am to Midnight, Monday – Friday (610) 269-0263

REMEMBER if you call 9-1-1 by mistake Don't Hang Up! When someone answers tell them you made a mistake. The operators don't know if it was a wrong number call or whether is it someone who needs help and hung up or was forced by an intruder to hang up. Most likely a police officer will show up at your door to make sure all is okay. Please be considerate as this wastes precious time in the officers' day getting to a real emergency!

VANDALISM COSTS EVERYONE TAX DOLLARS

Recently someone had stolen one of the street name signs in the Township. Since the signs are custom made, it cost \$840.00 to replace.

Please, if you see anyone attempting to deface or steal any of the signs please contact the police.

Thank You Corner



The Board of Supervisors wish to extend a special thank you to Frank Dooley for his eight years on the Park and Recreation Board and being a key member in making great events happen.

A thank you also goes out to the residents of the single family homes in the Villages at Bell Tavern for trimming back the sidewalks tree branches that are on their property. If you have not trimmed your

trees yet please do as the low hanging branches present a hazard to those walking or biking on the sidewalks.



The Board of Supervisors and Staff wish to thank David

Malman for 21 years of service to East Caln Township as solicitor. The Township is grateful for your dedication and extends best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

Recycling Corner



Reducing Trash helps the environment and helps keep your real estate taxes down! Recycled material that does not end up in a landfill benefits everyone.

HOW CAN YOU HELP REDUCE TRASH?

Use your buying power

1. Buy recycled and recyclable products and packaging. This creates a market for the materials you recycle.

2. Avoid over-packaged products. Avoid waste: Buy only what you need and as much as you need.
3. Look for products that are nontoxic.

Compost, mulch & grass recycle.

1. Compost leaves and other yard wastes to use as a mulch or soil amendment for your plants.
2. Many food wastes also can be composted.
3. Leave grass clippings where they fall.
4. Grass recycling provides a good top dressing fertilizer.
5. If you have an option, buy a mulching lawn mower.

Recycle & reduce waste outside the home.

1. Take advantage of opportunities to recycle when you're away from home.
2. Many Pennsylvania schools and businesses have recycling programs.



Winter Storm Water Pollution Solutions



With the cold weather upon us, water pollution prevention is still critical. Winter brings with it unique and significant pollution concerns to our streams and ponds. Because the ground will be frozen over the next few months, it acts like a hard surface similar to asphalt or—concrete. It no longer has the ability to act like a natural filter.

Pollutants accumulate in snow banks and ice all winter long. Once the snow melts, all the grime, grit, dirt, road salt, and other pollutants are washed into our storm water systems, rivers, and lakes. It's important that we take steps to reduce the amount of potential pollution sources during the winter months.

Be good to the environment and remember these suggestions for reducing your winter impact on our streams and ponds:

- **Be stingy with your salt application and consider alternative salting methods.** Road salt can be harmful to plants, aquatic life and drinking water supplies.
 - Shovel early. The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be.
 - More salt does not mean more melting. Apply appropriately, salt takes time to work. Consider purchasing a hand-held spreader to help you apply a consistent amount.
 - Fifteen degrees Fahrenheit is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use a traction agent as needed, but remember they do not melt ice.
 - Salt alternatives like potassium acetate (KA), calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), or sand are less damaging to homes

and landscaping and can be used to de-ice and improve traction on a walkway or driveway.

- Sweep up excess. Salt or sand on dry pavement is no longer doing any work, sweep it up before it is washed away and apply less the next time.
- **Rethink rinsing your garage floor.** While it's tempting to take out the hose and wash that ugly, gray sludge and salt off your car and out of your garage on a mild winter day—please stop! Residue left from road salt, oil, gas, and other road pollutants drips from your car and ends up on the garage floor. The water will end up into our streams. Take your car to a commercial car wash. A clean car means a cleaner garage!
- **Watch your waste.** Picking up pet waste is just as important in the wintertime as it is in the warmer months. Animal waste can be a significant source of harmful bacteria and disease.

Help to keep our streams wonderful even in the winter! To report an illicit discharge to the storm water collection system or to a stream, creek or pond, call the East Caln Township at (610) 269-1989.





CANDLE SAFETY

When it gets cold out we tend to stay in more, turn up the heat and delight in the fragrance of candles.

- Remember when burning candles keep them a safe distant from combustible materials.
- Never leave candle unattended-always extinguish when leaving for even a short while.
- Keep safe distance from pets so they cannot jump up and knock them over.
- The best way to extinguish an out of control candle is to place a pot over it to extinguish the flame. Do not attempt to pick it up and move it.

PAVILION RENTALS

Residents: \$75 with a separate \$50 refundable deposit

Non-Resident: \$150 with a separate \$50 refundable deposit

The reservations must be paid in cash or by separate checks for the fee and deposit.

All rentals are rain or shine. NO REFUNDS.

DARC

THE DOWNTOWN AREA RECREATION CONSORTIUM



The Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium (DARC). Sign up for some great recreational opportunities and stay active during the winter!

Call the office at 610-269-9260 or visit the website www.darc.info. For more information on the programs.

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning in early January, applications will be available on the DARC website www.darc.info for those interested in applying to be a Half-Day or Full-Day Summer Camp Counselor. The deadline to submit an application will be the first week in March, with interviews beginning in mid-March.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT EAST WARD ELEMENTARY & UWCHLAN HILLS ELEMENTARY

After school programs, Build and Program Wireless Robots at Uwchlan Hills Elementary. As well as Create 3D Video Games at East Ward Elementary. These programs are for ages 5 to 12

HEALTH & FITNESS PROGRAMS

Looking for great ways to have fun and get in better shape? A variety of Health & Fitness programs for all levels and abilities: Powertone, Pilates, Tai Chi, Body Sculpting, Upper & Lower Body Strengthen & Tone, Zumba, Yoga and Aquatic Exercise programs.

ADULT SPORTS

An adult Men's Basketball program, an adult Women's Basketball program, an adult Volleyball program, and an Adult

Corn Hole League. Adult Coed and Men's Softball Leagues are also offered in the fall.

COMPUTER COURSES WITH SPRINGHOUSE EDUCATION

DARC is partnering with Springhouse Education and Consulting Services to offer computer courses at their facility in Exton (707 Eagleview Blvd., Suite 207, Exton, PA 19341). Windows 8, Access, InDesign, Word, HTML, CSS, Quickbooks, Dreamweaver, Outlook, Photoshop, PowerPoint, Excel, & more!

DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS A GREAT GIFT IDEA ANYTIME!

Call ahead for availability! Discount Movie Tickets to Regal Theater! These tickets are \$9.50 each and are honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres) Also offering Discount Movie Tickets to the Movie Tavern in Exton. The Movie Tavern tickets are \$9.00 each.



DISCOUNT SKI TICKETS

Call ahead for availability! Ski areas: Bear Creek, Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Elk Mountain, Seven Springs, Montage Mountain and Shawnee Mountain. Discount tickets are available thru mid-March.



Quarterly Sewer Bills

PAYMENT OPTIONS



Personal Banking: If paying through your bank's online bill pay, please remember to include your sewer account number on your check and mail directly to DNB First, PO Box 1004, Downingtown, PA 19335. If you use your online bill pay option, you should know that the payment is NOT electronic; your bank mails a paper check. This method will take between 5 - 7 business days, so please plan accordingly.

Credit Card: Visit our website at www.eastcalntownship.com and choose the Online Bill Pay option. A processing fee of approximately 2.5% applies to all credit card payments and will be added to the total payment.

In Person: You can make the payment at any branch of DNB Bank, providing you include a remittance stub, or visit the Township building and pay by cash or check. If you don't have time to stop in, you may leave your non-cash payment in the black mailbox. The mail is gathered from the box by 8am each week-day morning. **Note: payments mailed or delivered directly to the Township Building may experience a delay in posting.**

Questions? Please call Rose at (610) 269-1989.

Quarterly sewer bills are mailed at the beginning of February, May, August, and November. Please be aware that payments not received by the due date are subject to a 10% penalty in addition to interest on unpaid balances. Properties that are more than two quarters in arrears on sewer payments may be subject to a municipal lien or water shutoff.

Numerous easy payment options are available:

Automatic Payment: An authorization form can be obtained on our website at www.eastcalntownship.com or by calling or visiting the Township building. By choosing this option, the Township will automatically deduct the quarterly bill from your account on time, every time. Just submit the signed authorization form along with a voided check and we will take care of the rest!

Mail: Mail your payment with your remittance stub. You should make the check payable to *East Caln Township Sewer Account* and mail it to: DNB First Bank, PO Box 1004, Downingtown, PA 19335. The payment is posted to your account on the date that the bank receives the payment, not the date of mailing.



LAND DEVELOPMENT

ANSTINE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 250 W. UWCHLAN AVE.—

The developer has not started construction of 12 townhouses.

HOME2 HOTEL—The Hotel is now open. If you're having guests for the holiday and they need a place to stay that is close to your home, check out the Township's newest addition.

ON THE GO KIDS—The Micken family has received final approval of their land development plan. Construction has not yet started.

PATIENT FIRST—Patient First is continuing with their construction. It will be located within the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center at the southeastern corner of the present parking lot of Home Depot.

IPPOLITO 2 LOT SUBDIVISION has received final approval and will be starting construction on one of the two single family homes soon. This is located on Old Kings Hwy West off of Rt. 113.





Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- »» Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- »» Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- »» Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- »» Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- »» Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- »» Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- »» Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- »» Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- »» Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

- ❗ The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2016



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Downingtown, PA 19335

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PHONE (610) 269-1989 **FAX** (610) 269-9183
HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm Monday - Friday
WEB www.eastcalntownship.com

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chuck DeLone
cdelone@eastcalntownship.com
Donald P. Ash
dash@eastcalntownship.com
Joel F. Swisher
jswisher@eastcalntownship.com

STAFF

Barbara M. Kelly, **Manager / Secretary**
bkelly@eastcalntownship.com
Rose L. Werner, **Director of Finance**
rwerner@eastcalntownship.com
Chris M. Obenchain, **BCO / Fire Marshal**
cobenchain@eastcalntownship.com
Lisa J. Myers, **Building / Codes Administrator**
lmyers@eastcalntownship.com
Dave Jones, **Assistant Zoning Officer**
djones@eastcalntownship.com

* Dates & Meetings *

JANUARY

3	Board of Supervisors Meeting Re-organization	1:30pm
5	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting	7:00pm
9	Planning Commission	7:00pm
16	Martin Luther King Day	Township Offices Closed
17	Zoning Hearing Board (As Required)	7:30pm
18	Board of Supervisors Meeting	6:00pm
19	Bulk Trash Pick-Up	5:00am
25	Branch Pick-Up Curbside	6:00am

FEBRUARY

1	Board of Supervisors Meeting	1:30pm
2	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting	7:00pm
6	Planning Commission	7:00pm
15	Board of Supervisors Meeting	1:30pm
16	Bulk Trash Pick-Up	5:00am
20	President's Day	Township Offices Closed
21	Zoning Hearing Board (As Required)	7:30pm
22	Branch Pick-Up Curbside	6:00am

MARCH

1	Board of Supervisors Meeting	1:30pm
2	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting	7:00pm
6	Planning Commission	7:00pm
15	Board of Supervisors Meeting	6:00pm
16	Bulk Trash Pick-Up	5:00am
20	Zoning Hearing Board (As Required)	7:30pm
22	Branch Pick-Up Curbside	6:00am

APRIL

3	Planning Commission	7:00pm
5	Board of Supervisors Meeting	1:30pm
6	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting	7:00pm
14	Good Friday	Township Offices Closed
17	Zoning Hearing Board (As Required)	7:30pm
19	Board of Supervisors Meeting	6:00pm
20	Bulk Trash Pick-Up	5:00am
26	Branch Pick-Up Curbside	6:00am

NOTE: All Meetings are held in the Township Building located at 110 Bell Tavern Road.

Township Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday