Township of Ridley

February, 2020

Dear Residents:

On behalf of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners, Township Officials and employees, please accept our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020! It is an honor to serve the residents of Ridley Township and we thank you for your continued support as we work to make Ridley Township a great place to live, work and raise a family.

The Board is committed to maintaining our first class services, such as police and fire services, twice-a-week trash collection, single stream recycling collection, road and park maintenance, plowing operations, recreation and library programs and more. While we provide these services in a cost effective manner, the expense to do so continues to rise. This year, the millage rate was increased an average of $56.00 per household. Service charges were also increased by a total of $35.00 per household due to the rising cost of sewer fees and trash and recycling disposal costs. The Board is mindful of how this increase of approximately $8.00 monthly can burden homeowners and we will continue to work hard in order to keep taxes at a reasonable rate for our residents.

Looking ahead, we plan to hire additional patrol officers and also expand our Police Department’s undercover and special units to assist our officers in keeping drug activity and other criminal elements out of our community. We’re also establishing a Veterans Committee with the goal of honoring our township veterans. The Committee’s first priority will be to establish a “Hometown Heroes Banner Program”, whereby residents of Ridley Township can honor their veteran family member with a banner prominently displayed within our community depicting their service photo, military branch and years of service to our country. We will roll out this program within the next few months, so stay tuned for more information.

In order to stay connected to what’s happening in Ridley Township, we ask that you visit our website, social media links, and cable channel which are listed below. These sites give us an opportunity to update the community with special announcements and also provide information on various township services.

This newsletter includes important information for your use, including the 2020 Trash/Recycling Collection Schedule. Please do not hesitate to contact the township office at 610-534-4800 if you have any questions – we’re here to help!

Sincerely,

Robert J. Willert
President, Board of Commissioners

100 E. MacDade Boulevard ◆ Folsom, Pennsylvania 19033 ◆ www.ridleytwp.org
Facebook.com/RidleyTwp ◆ Instagram.com/RidleyTownship ◆ Twitter.com/Ridleytwp
Government Access Channels – Comcast 5; Verizon 36; RCN 52
POLICE DEPARTMENT

For any police, fire or ambulance emergencies or non-emergencies, dial 9-1-1. **Residents are reminded never to leave valuables in vehicles and always keep vehicles locked.** Don’t forget to download our CRIMEWATCH app where you can browse crime related information and receive news directly from the Ridley Township Police Department. You can also provide tips and report criminal activity anonymously through the app or by emailing ridleytownshipdtipline@gmail.com. During normal business hours, if you would like to reach the Captain, Detective Division or Records Office, dial 610-532-4000.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

All Ridley Township tax bills are sent in February to the registered property owner. **If taxes are paid by a mortgage company, in order to insure that you get the proper discount, please forward the entire bill to the mortgage company.** If you have any questions regarding your tax bill, please contact the Township Tax Office at 610-534-4807, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Senior citizens eligible for the Pennsylvania Property Tax Rebate are also eligible for a partial refund of service charges for rubbish and/or sewer.** You must have received your PA rebate check and paid your 2020 TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE TAXES before applying for a partial refund of Township service charges. Please call the Tax Office for application information or if you have any questions.

CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

All residents are reminded to call the Code Enforcement Office at 610-534-4803 for permit information and requirements before commencing any new construction or alterations. Residents are also reminded that sidewalks - as well as alleyways - are the responsibility of the property owner and must be maintained properly and also cleared of snow or ice no later than twenty-four (24) hours after snow has stopped falling. **Piling of snow in the street is strictly prohibited.** The Township enacted an ordinance whereby owners of rental units within the Township are required to secure an annual certificate of use for each occupied or unoccupied dwelling unit pursuant to the regulations listed in the ordinance. **Residents are reminded never to blow grass clippings in the street.** Doing so clogs the sewer inlets and can lead to roadway flooding. If you employ a landscaper, please pass this information along – your neighbors will thank you! Selling your home? Contact the Code Enforcement office to obtain the necessary information prior to going to settlement. Any other questions regarding Codes or Ordinances, please contact the office at 610-534-4803.

PUBLIC LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER

The Ridley Township Public Library & Resource Center has added notary services and curbside delivery to the wide range of services available to residents. The Library is a valuable source of books, DVDs, tablets, Rokus, museum passes, hot spots, cake pans, games, magazines, eBooks & more. Check out our website www.ridleylibrary.org for the full list of items to borrow, and other services such as faxing, test proctoring, meeting spaces & more. The Library also offers interesting and informative programs for adults & teens and fun & educational classes for children. Library hours are: Monday through Wednesday 10am to 8pm; Thursday & Friday 10am to 5pm; Saturday 12pm to 4pm and Sunday 1pm to 4:30pm. The Library is closed Sundays in July and August. Check out our website or call 610-583-0593 for more information.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Improper management of discarded needles and other sharp items can pose a health risk to the public and to our Public Works personnel. Township Ordinance requires needles and other sharp items to be placed inside a hard, plastic container, such as a detergent bottle, with a screw on cap or tightly secured lid. We ask that you label the container “Not for Recycling” and place it out with your regular trash. Failure to follow the proper guidelines will result in fines ranging from $300 to $1,000 per occurrence. Residents in Ridley Township are required by ordinance to clean up after their pet while walking their dog along streets or in public parks. Studies by the Center for Watershed Protection have found that bacteria from dog waste forms a significant part of non-point source pollution in suburban stormwater. Residents are asked to do their part in helping to keep our streams and public areas clean by picking up and disposing of dog waste.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department provides recreational opportunities for all residents. All programs are listed in our “Recreation Happenings” newsletter which is distributed in January and September to all elementary schools and is also available in the Ridley Township Public Library, Administration Office and on our website – www.ridleytwp.org – click on Parks & Recreation. Our Summer Program brochure will be available in May and lists information on our summer playground programs, camps & other programs. **Online registration is available for several programs!** Looking to rent a place for your next special event? Consider renting Ridley’s Creekside Center, 794 Milmont Avenue located in the 5th Ward of Ridley Township. The Creekside Center can accommodate up to 180 guests. Contact the Township Office at 610-534-4800 for further information.

RIDLEY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL MARINA

Ridley Township Municipal Marina, 401 S. Swarthmore Avenue, Ridley Park, PA, offers a public boat ramp for residents of Ridley Township and the surrounding communities. Seasonal and daily ramp passes are available. In addition, there are four docks housing 99 slips, a secure storage facility, and more! **Water’s Edge Banquet Room** located at the Ridley Township Municipal Marina, accommodates 50 to 120 guests - perfect for your next special event! Contact the Marina Office at 610-521-2800 for further information on all services.
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Want to know what you can do to help keep our stormwater and local creeks cleaner? Visit the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association website at www.crcwatersheds.org where you will find helpful information on stormwater pollution solutions and what you can do to protect the water resources of the Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creek Valleys, along with announcements of CRC Watershed sponsored events. In addition to the CRC Watersheds website listed above, the township also posts announcements of upcoming stormwater quality management events to continually educate and solicit residents participation in this worthy program to assure the township’s continued compliance with its mandatory NPDES MS4 Stormwater Management Permit issued and enforced by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP).

Help us protect our environment by reporting suspicious and unusual spills and other events of hazardous or strange looking fluids that may end up in our township roadside stormwater inlets and ultimately discharge to our local creeks. It only takes a minute and your community will thank you for it. Simply call one of the numbers below that most closely matches what you see, hear or smell out of the ordinary in Ridley Township:

| Clogged Sewer Lines/Sewage Smell | Ridley Township – 610-534-4800 (After hours 9-1-1) |
| 24-hour Water Quality Hotline | PA DEP – 484-250-5900 |
| Sewage Spills & Emergency Hotline | PA DEP - 484-250-5900 |
| Fish Kills/Illegal Fishing | PA Fish Commission – 717-626-0228 |
| Broken Water Mains | Aqua PA – 877-987-2782 |

UPCOMING STORMWATER PERMIT CHANGES

Ridley Township has a permit from the State to discharge all of its stormwater to streams and rivers. Under new requirements, Ridley Township had to prepare a Pollution Reduction Plan for the impaired surface waters it discharges to. This report was re-submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection and is currently under review. Local waterways are impaired due to sediment runoff from nearby streets, lawns, and streambank erosion. Under new regulations that started in March, 2018, the Township is required to reduce this sediment from going into waterways within the next 5 years. The main objective of the Pollution Reduction Plan is to come up with a way to meet these requirements. During this timeframe, the Township will design, construct, and implement management devices to reduce sediment runoff. Besides a few modifications, the Township’s new Stormwater Permit that took effect in March, 2018 will remain the same. As always, please continue to report any illegal dumping and fish kills in local waterways to the Township, and participate in stormwater education events. Please visit the Township website for event information.

SWIMMING POOL DISCHARGE

Swimming pools and hot tubs are a great way to relax and spend time with family and friends but, what do you do when you are done with the pool or hot tub water? Swimming pool and hot tub water cannot be discharged into streams because this water contains large amounts of chlorine and other chemicals that, once released into the environment, pose a health hazard to fish and other aquatic animals and plants. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, if permission is granted, swimming pool or hot tub water can be discharged into a sanitary sewer system or drained on-site for irrigation (ensuring that the water is released at a rate to prevent flow into streams and storm sewers). For information on how to safely dispose of swimming pool and hot tub water, please see DEP’s “Management of Swimming Pool, Hot Tub and Spa Water Discharges” on their eLibrary website at http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary.

Please consult with the Code Enforcement Office if you have any questions about how to discharge your pool or hot tub water.

2020 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DATES

Delaware County residents can bring unwanted household hazardous waste products to regional drop off sites for proper disposal or recycling. This program is offered as a community service and is not open to businesses, industry or institutions. If improperly discarded, household products containing toxic chemicals can be a threat to people, pets & the environment. Never dispose of hazardous materials in the trash as they may harm sanitation workers or result in a collection vehicle fire. It is also unsafe to pour HHW down a sink or storm drain as it will end up polluting our drinking water. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627 or visit www.delcopa.gov/recycle. Residents may take household hazardous waste products to the following sites on the dates indicated between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., regardless of weather. TV’s, COMPUTERS, APPLIANCES OR ITEMS CONTAINING FREON WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

- Saturday, May 2, 2020
- Saturday, June 20, 2020
- Saturday, September 12, 2020
- Saturday, October 17, 2020

Latex paint is NOT hazardous waste and should not be brought to a County collection event. In order to safely dispose of latex paint, solidify the paint before placing it out with your trash. Simply take the top off the can and place it outside, away from children and pets, and allow it to harden. If the can is very full, place kitty litter in the can and stir until all the paint is absorbed. Empty, lidless paint cans should be placed in a box and placed out with your trash.
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES’ AGING AT HOME PROGRAM

Senior Community Services’ Aging at Home is a support system that helps seniors manage daily tasks and allow them to live and age well at home. Aging at Home highlighted services continues to be home-vetted business referrals, volunteer handymen jobs, transportation, and yard work projects with community groups. For 2020, the program will continue to provide the support to help Ridley seniors remain living in their own homes. To learn more about program details and/or learn about upcoming general programs in our area, please contact Christine Helmandollar, Aging at Home Program Director at 484-534-2207 or visit Senior Community Services’ website www.scsdelco.org and click on the Aging at Home link to complete a membership application. SCS’ Aging at Home Program is the answer to maintaining independency through connections in our community.

2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

The 2020 Ridley Township Board of Commissioners meeting dates are listed below. A public forum is held before the meetings at 6:00 p.m. in Garling Hall, Ridley Township Municipal Building, 100 E. MacDade Boulevard, Folsom, PA at which time any interested party may be heard. Those interested in addressing the Board, please sign in via the dry erase board upon arrival. The regular meeting will immediately follow the public forum.

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Important Phone Numbers

Police, Fire or Ambulance 9-1-1

Ridley Township Police Department 610-532-4000
Ridley Township General Information 610-534-4800
Ridley Township Code Enforcement Department 610-534-4803
Ridley Township Manager’s Office 610-534-4806
Ridley Township Treasurer/Tax Collector’s Office 610-534-4807
Ridley Township Recreation Department 610-522-0557
Ridley Township Public Library 610-583-0593
Ridley Township Municipal Marina 610-521-2800
Ridley School District 610-534-1900
County of Delaware Government Center 610-891-4000
Aqua, PA 877-987-2782
PECO Energy 800-494-4000
Comcast 800-266-2278
RCN 800-746-4726
Verizon 800-837-4966