



Recycling & Refuse Reminders

Commingled/Paper Recycling

Rockledge is a recycling community and so we continue to remind our residents to be mindful about increasing their recycling efforts. In light of the present economy, everyone is looking for ways to save a little money. The more we recycle, the more we save! One way to accomplish this is to encourage our youth to be conscious about recycling also. The more we promote recycling, the more our children will be inclined to recycle and will continue to recycle. For more ideas on ways that our kids can become involved, check out the PA Department of Environmental Website at www.depweb.state.pa.us and click on "Just for Kids."

Yard Waste

Please remember to place yard waste in the brown paper yard waste bags available at Acker's or Siwek's Hardware Stores. Plastic bags will not be collected. Also, bags must not exceed 35 pounds in weight. Sticks and tree limbs must be bundled together using string or twine. Keep branches and limbs less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter. There must be absolutely no stones, rocks, dirt, or trash in yard waste bags.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Montgomery County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program will start up again in April of this year. The list of dates and collection sites will be posted on their website (www.wsaemc.org) in February of this year or you can call them at 610-278-3618.

Construction Materials

• The Borough reminds residents that trash collection is not intended for construction materials, and in fact creates additional cost for the residents of Rockledge. Contractors should be removing their own materials from the work site. If residents are performing the work themselves, then the materials must be hauled away separately, or a dumpster must be rented when substantial construction waste is generated.

Scheduled Pick-up Days

- Newspaper/Paper/Junk Mail - Mondays at 7 AM
- Yard Waste - Mondays at 7 AM
- Commingled Recycling - Tuesdays at 7 AM

Real Estate and School Tax Collector's Report

A message from Tax Collector/Treasurer Albert Wartman

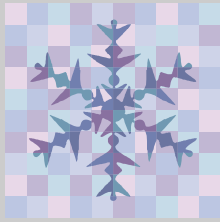
Tax season is here again! **Real Estate tax bills including the trash & sewer fees will be mailed to arrive by February 15, 2009.** Listed below are some frequently asked questions with regards to tax collection. Hopefully the answers to these questions will prove to be helpful.

1. What happens if I never received my tax bill this year? PA law states that it is the homeowners' responsibility to know they have taxes due on the property they own. Even if they do not receive a bill, they are still responsible to pay the taxes.
2. Can you waive the penalty if I am having financial problems? By law, Tax Collectors are required to collect taxes when due or charge the penalty when they are late. Only the taxing authorities can waive the penalty.
3. Why do you keep raising my taxes? Tax Collectors do not set the millage. They issue tax bills based on the millage set by the taxing authorities. They then collect the revenue and forward the proceeds to the taxing authorities in a timely manner.
4. Can't you send my tax bill to my mortgage company? It would be a big task for the tax collector to keep track of everyone's mortgage company in view of the ever growing number of changes during the year. A reminder is printed on the bottom of each tax bill "If serviced by a mortgage company, forward bill to them immediately."

Tax Collection Office Hours : **April 1 through April 15, 2009**

Wed, Thurs, and Fri evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

**Help keep Rockledge beautiful,
Promote recycling in your neighborhood.
Rockledge Borough Thanks You!**



WINTER GREETINGS

*From the Borough
of Rockledge*

Rockledge Borough Council

James Caffrey, *President*
Fran Casey, *Vice-President*
Joseph Denelsbeck
Robert Beady
Beth Kain
William Kelleher
Patti Kehoe
Harold Praediger, *Mayor*

Borough Manager

Grace Metzinger

Borough Clerk

Joyce Hines

Police Chief

James P. Leary

Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator

Joseph Metzinger

Building Inspector

Lee Denner, BIU

Fire Marshal

Russell Hellyer

Fire Chief

Gerry Morris

Public Works Supervisor

Clint Snyder

Treasurer

Albert Wartman

Zoning Officer

Judith Buckhoffer, BIU

Borough Website

www.rockledgeborough.org

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- **Fire Co. Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, February 22, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. For tickets call 215-379-8373 or purchase them at the door. ALL YOU CAN EAT!
- **St. Patrick's Beef-n-Beer** benefit for the Fire Company on Saturday March 14, 2009 8:00pm—12:00. Please call 215-379-8373 for ticket information.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Cegielkowski Playground. Rain Date: April 5, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Borough Flag Sale:** If you are interested in purchasing a Rockledge Borough Flag, please complete the enclosed order form and forward it along with your payment to the Borough Office.
- **Fire Company Annual Fund Drive:** Recently you should have received the donation letter in the mail. Our Volunteers risk their lives every time that whistle sounds and we need to support them. In the long run it is cheaper for the residents to provide the fire company a tax deductible contribution, than it is for the borough to raise taxes to help the men and women protect us. Please consider sending them a donation today. As always, they thank you for your support!
- **Fourth of July Association:** Members will be selling April calendar raffles during the month of March. Cost: \$10.00. *Your continued support of the parade is always appreciated!*
- **Dog Walking Reminders:** Please be mindful to clean up after your dogs and keep them on leashes when out for a walk. Also, please keep dogs off of private property.

A message from Borough Manager Grace Metzinger

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our residents and business owners a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

On a sad note, on behalf of the Borough, I would like to express our sympathy to the family of Chuck Aungst who passed away on January 2, 2009. Chuck was a resident of the Borough for over 40 years and served on many committees including the Open Space Committee, Planning Commission, and Revitalization Committee. He was also a member of the Rockledge Volunteer Fire Company. Chuck's presence will be greatly missed in the Rockledge community.

Our new **State Representative Brendan Boyle** can be reached at: 14230 Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19116 or by calling 215-676-0300.

Rockledge Reporter is a quarterly newsletter published for the residents, civic and business leaders of the community. If you have any comments or suggestions concerning **Rockledge Reporter**, please contact Grace Metzinger or Joyce Hines at: 121 Huntingdon Pike Rockledge, PA 19046 215-379-8572

POLICE DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS

POLICE

A message from Chief James Leary

Winter weather has arrived which means short days, long nights (extra periods of darkness), cold weather, and snow. A safe winter with our automobiles means we keep a well maintained car, with special attention to the care of our tires. Winter driving conditions often result in reduced visibility and increased stopping distances. We will all be safer if we slow down and exercise extra caution. Winter conditions also affect our pedestrians, especially our children who walk to school or wait at the bus stops. Please be considerate of our pedestrians and children; let's keep our sidewalks cleared of all ice and snow.

In 2008 the Rockledge Borough Police Department completed an extremely thorough training and educational program. Our officers were trained in first aid and CPR. They were updated as to the most current issues in Criminal Law. All of our officers were recertified based on the curriculum mandated by the Commonwealth.

In addition to the mandatory education, our police department has increased its educational processes through a program of ongoing training seminars and classes. Among these were classes teaching the most effective methods to investigate Missing Persons, Abused or Neglected Children, Serious Motor Vehicle Accidents, Juvenile Crimes, and Domestic Violence cases. In addition to these academic courses, physical skills were also developed. Our officers learned how to safely deploy the Taser, how better to confront an armed suspect, and to help the emotionally disturbed person. Our officers attended more than a dozen seminars and the education and training they received will help us to better serve you.

The officers of our department respond to crimes, accidents, and medical emergencies. But we also support the community and help to address and resolve many issues not often recognized as police functions. We often deal with community challenges that reflect upon the quality of life in the Rockledge Community. Our officers often serve as a point of referral. We have successfully established excellent working relationships with the senior and aging adults, the many state and county agencies addressing the challenges facing our youth, and several other agencies which help us to help you. Please call us with your concerns, perhaps we can help. It is our privilege to serve.

Contacting your Police Department:

For police emergencies, please dial 911.

If you wish to meet with or speak to an officer, please dial 215-379-8800.

If you wish to leave a message, dial 215-379-8801, but please be aware that 215-379-8801 is a voicemail system.

Our 911 and 215-379-8800 lines are staffed 24 / 7 and are always your best methods to ensure a rapid police response.

Mayor's Office/Emergency Management

A message from Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Metzinger

Montgomery County has a Special Needs Registry that allows citizens with special needs and their associates an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergencies. The information collected in this registry will not be available to the public. This information will be held securely and only accessed for the purpose of emergency response and planning. Only the Rockledge Emergency Management Coordinator with the Montgomery County Division of Emergency Management will have access to the information you provide. Try to be complete as possible with your input. You will be e-mailed periodically to verify and ensure the information provided is correct and to make any necessary changes. To place your information in the Special Needs Registry, go to www.specialneedspa.org

DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS (cont'd.)

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

A message from Fire Marshal Russ Hellyer

Fire safety is something that should be practiced year round, and not just during fire prevention week. Please keep the following in mind as you go through the winter and early spring:

1. When purchasing a carbon monoxide detector, make sure it has a UL label and follow manufacturer instructions.
2. Make sure that batteries have been replaced in all of your smoke detectors.
3. Have fireplaces and flues checked and cleaned.
4. Don't store flammables/combustibles indoors.
5. Keep the areas around hot water heaters and other heaters free of clutter.
6. Don't plug electric heaters into extension cords.
7. If you are using Kerosene heaters indoors, please fill them outdoors initially.

Thank you and a safe 2009 to you and your family!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A message from Fire Chief Jerry Morris

The new year is a time of reflection and a time for planning ahead. The year 2008 was, thankfully, a quiet year for firefighting in the Borough. The few calls we responded to in the Borough were all relatively minor in nature. This low call rate is a reflection of good safety and fire prevention practices at home and at our businesses. Our thanks go out to our community for a job "well done."

On your list of resolutions and plans for this new year, don't forget to add reminders to check those smoke detectors. Do they work? Is there one on each floor? Is there a fire extinguisher nearby and is it charged? Do you have an emergency evacuation plan in place so each person in the residence knows how to get out of the home quickly and safely? There are a number of websites available that provide information on these topics. And as always, the Fire Company is more than happy to assist in any way. Please feel free to stop in any Thursday evening training or contact us by email at www.rockledgefireco.org. If you would like to contact me, please leave a message at the Borough Office and I will return your call.

The fire company is always looking for firefighters. I know time is precious these days. If you have any interest or are even just curious as to what it takes to be a firefighter, stop in and talk to us.

Upcoming Events

- **Pancake Breakfast**: Sunday, February 22, 2009 8:00 a.m. to Noon and **St. Patrick's Day Beef & Beer**: Saturday, March 14, 2009 8:00-12:00

Watch your mailboxes for postcard announcements regarding our fundraisers!

Happy and Safe New Year to All!

Planning Commission

Members: John Wynne (Chairman), Mary Alice Wynne, Barbara Crossin, Joseph Costello, and William Diegel

The Planning Commission along with Matthew Kory (Montgomery County Planning Commission) have been working on some possible changes in the ROR (Retail, Office, Residential) Zoning for a Main Street District along Huntingdon Pike. These changes are intended as improvements that should reflect a shift towards a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly community. They would also help achieve the goals of the Rockledge Revitalization Plan.

2009 Planning Commission Meeting Dates: January 20, March 24, May 19, September 15, and November 17. All meetings are held at the Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m. and they are open to the public.

DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFS (cont'd.)

PUBLIC WORKS

Reminders from foreman Clint Snyder

The Public Works Department would like to give residents a few friendly reminders:

Sewer System: Please only deposit toilet tissue in the sewer system! Cleaning rags, handi-wipes, and diapers cause costly backups in the sanitary sewer system and should not be flushed down the toilet. Recently a resident of the Borough experienced a sewer backup which caused extensive damage to their finished basement. After flushing the main, it was discovered that the blockage was caused as a result of someone flushing rags into the sewer system. These occurrences seem to be happening more often. It is extremely important that everyone is mindful of what we are depositing into the sewer system so as to avoid these reoccurring expensive sewer blockages.

Snow Reminders: 1) **DO NOT** throw snow back into the streets after the plows have passed. 2) Park in the driveway when snow is expected so we can clear the streets as wide as possible. 3) **DO NOT** park too close to corners to allow the snow plows to negotiate turns safely.

Follow snow emergency procedures for parking: 1) On odd numbered calendar days, park on the side of the street upon which odd numbered properties are located. 2) On even numbered calendar days, park on the side of the street upon which even numbered properties are located. 3) Where "No Parking This Side of Street" areas exist, these take precedence and there is no need to comply with the above.

Spring will be here soon—remember to follow guidelines for yard waste collection when cleaning up your yards.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Reminders from Councilwoman Beth Kain

Trash Collection

Regular trash pickup occurs on Wednesday. All trash should be set out for collection in water-tight, rust resistant containers made of metal, plastic, or other durable material, equipped with a tight-fitting lid.

Bulk Pickup: Bulk items are picked up the first Wednesday of the month. The only items that need to be scheduled for pickup on bulk day are white goods (washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.). To schedule pickup call: 610-265-6337.

Recyclable Pickup

Paper recycling occurs on Mondays. Commingled recycling (glass, metal and plastic) occurs on Tuesdays.

Please place all trash and recycling at the curb no earlier than 8:00 p.m. the day prior to collection, and remove your receptacle no later than midnight the day of collection.

PARKS & RECREATION

A message from Councilwoman Patti Kehoe

Rockledge Basketball Camp

Basketball Camp began on January 10 and will run thru March 15, 2009 @ the Borough Hall Gym. The program will run every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Participants must be at least 6 years of age or older to attend. Anyone wishing to attend can stop by the gym any Saturday or Sunday to sign up and complete a permission slip.

Easter Egg Hunt

The 39th Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009 starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Cegiolkowski Playground. The rain date will be Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. All Rockledge children from preschool through grade six are welcome to attend. Meet the Easter Bunny and take a guess at the number of jelly beans in the giant jar to win a prize!



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Rockledge Reporter
Borough of Rockledge
121 Huntingdon Pike
Rockledge, PA 19046

A Letter from Council President Caffrey

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year to all from Rockledge Borough Council and its employees! We enter 2009 with the hope that our country and its economy will rebound with much better news in the housing and financial markets, and that the rise in unemployment will slow.

I would like to update you on several on-going projects here in the Borough. We anticipate completion of the Huntingdon Pike Revitalization project in the spring. The planned walking trail on Loney Street, which will link Church Road to Cegielkowski Playground is moving forward. We have received a grant to make much needed repairs to the tennis courts, and have applied for and expect to receive a grant to install a new baseball field and renovate the existing ball field at Cegielkowski Playground.

At this time I would like to thank former State Representative George Kenney and his staff for their many years of service. George was instrumental in obtaining many grants that benefitted the Borough and its police and fire departments. Thank you George and Good Luck to you and your family.

I would also like to thank Bill Kern who retired from the position of Zoning Officer after 40+ years. Thanks for your dedication and service to Rockledge. You will be missed. Good Luck and Happy Retirement Bill!

Finally, as we approach the heart of the winter season, please remember to keep your sidewalks clear after snowfall and DO NOT shovel your snow into the street.

Here's to a healthy and prosperous 2009! Spring is right around the corner!

James J. Caffrey, President of Council