



# Buckingham Township Report

Vol. 21, No. 2 • Published by the Board of Supervisors • October 2008

## Referendum for 1/4 mill tax for Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit will be on ballot

There will be a question on the ballot on November 4<sup>th</sup> regarding a 1/4 mill tax to support ambulance, rescue and other emergency services. Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit provides emergency medical services to all of Buckingham Township. The purpose of the tax would be to provide funds for the upkeep and replacement of the Corps' capital equipment. The cost to the average homeowner in the township is estimated to be about \$12.30 annually.

The tax would provide the Corps with approximately \$97,000 a year to help insure its ability to maintain and replace its ambulances and other capital equipment as needed. The equipment of the ambulance corps is expensive, but it can mean the difference between life and death for an injured or ill patient.

Central Bucks Ambulance operates 24 hours/7 days from two stations which serve Buckingham. Their main station is near the Acme shopping center at North Main Street in Doylestown Borough. They also have a substation in Wycombe, allowing them to respond quickly to calls from our southern sector. In 2007, Central Bucks Ambulance responded to over 4200 total calls for assistance. Twenty five (25) percent, approximately 1,050 calls, came from Buckingham.

Central Bucks Ambulance's operational budget is derived primarily from two sources, insurance billings and their yearly subscription plan. Each fall, letters

go out to residents inviting them to subscribe to Central Bucks Ambulance for a modest sum. The subscription fee provides important financial help to the Corps and, should someone in a member's household need ambulance service, there will be no out-of-pocket expense for them beyond what their insurance covers. The 1/4 mill tax is not a replacement for the subscription fee.

The referendum question will appear at the very top of the ballot on November 4<sup>th</sup>, the day of the General Election. This is its wording:

### **Buckingham Township**

#### **Ambulance Squad Tax Referendum**

Shall Buckingham Township levy an annual real estate tax of one quarter (1/4) mill for the purpose of funding ambulance, rescue and other emergency services serving the Township?

YES or NO

### **Plain English Statement**

The ballot question asks the voters of Buckingham Township whether the Township should assess an annual tax of one quarter (1/4) mill, which is equal to no dollars and 2-1/2 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for the purpose of funding ambulance, rescue, and other emergency services serving Buckingham Township.



## Fall Leaf Pickup — a new recycling service

Last fall, Buckingham Township launched its first leaf collection program. We continued by hosting a yard waste collection in the spring. This fall the Township is offering the same service again, to take those autumn leaves off your hands. Instead of choking landfills, the leaves are composted as nature intended.

Forty gallon biodegradable paper bags will be available at the Township Administration Building from October 20 to November 26 during regular business hours. (Please note the Township will not pick up leaves in any container other than these special bags.) The bags are free but there is a limit of five (5) bags per residence. You'll be asked to give your address when you get your bags so the township knows where to pick up the leaves. Do not place anything in the bags except leaves and other relatively soft plant material. Non-vegetative debris does not decompose readily and interferes with the composting process.

There are two pickup weeks: November 10 and December 1. Place the filled bags at the curb of the address given to the Township by 7 a.m. Monday morning of the pick-up week to ensure pickup.

Residents who miss the pickup dates may dispose of their properly bagged leaves and garden debris at the Buckingham Township Maintenance Building on Upper Mountain Road between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, December 6. No leaves or other materials may be disposed of at this location after this time.

(Information regarding next spring's garden cleanup and pickup recycling program will appear in the spring 2009 edition of the newsletter.)



# In case of emergency, you're in good hands in Buckingham

Three fine fire companies serve the Buckingham Township. Midway Volunteer Fire Company is our principal fire service provider. Sharing responsibility for fire protection in our southern sector is Lingohocken Fire Company of Wrightstown and, in our northwest sector, the Doylestown Fire Company.

There are seamless working relationships among all local fire companies and between the fire companies and the emergency paramedical crews that often work beside them. A station involved in an incident may call one or more other companies to assist. If a company's involvement in an incident compromises its ability to respond to other calls, a neighboring company will send a unit to the first company's station to cover for it.

## Funding the companies: a great deal for Buckingham

Midway, Lingohocken and Doylestown are staffed entirely by volunteers and at one time were entirely self-supporting through income generated from fundraisers like Midway's carnival and by donations from community members. However, the expansion of the area's population created an increasingly difficult financial challenge to the companies. In response, Buckingham enacted a fire tax to establish a stable funding source for the essential services they provide.

This year Buckingham's fire tax costs approximately \$37 dollars per family in a home at an average assessment. The funds received are divided among the three companies based on the percentage of their assigned coverage area of the township. Since that income doesn't cover all of their costs, they still hold fund-raising events and solicit for donations to bridge the difference.

According to National Volunteer Fire Council Foundation figures, if Buckingham were to establish a paid Fire Department, it would cost us – at a minimum – \$5,000,000 annually to provide fire and emergency services roughly equivalent to the services we now receive. Instead, by relying on our three fire companies, our tax bite for their services this year totals a shade under \$300,000. That is truly a great deal and we have every reason to feel grateful to the highly trained volunteers who staff them.

## Firefighters

Midway has a roster of over 60 skilled firefighters, Lingohocken 42 and Doylestown 60 more. They are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Their training is rigorous. To receive national certification as a "Firefighter 1", a novice must successfully complete 146 hours of training provided locally by the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center under the auspices of Bucks County Community College. Among the skills to be mastered are structure, vehicle and woodland firefighting, forcible entry, search and rescue, first aid, water supply, ladder use, fire extinguishers and personal safety. Additional training is provided for use of special equipment, vehicle operation and the handling of hazardous materials.

## Fire Police

During emergencies, the Fire Police assume traffic and crowd control duties and provide scene safety responsibility for both firefighters and the general public. Like the firefighters, they are volunteers, but they have state-sanctioned authority to carry out their duties and receive special training required by the state. Traffic signals given by a Fire Police Officer during an emergency supercede stop signs, traffic lights or other traffic control devices.

**"If your neighbor's house caught fire, wouldn't you want to do more than watch?"**

Midway, Lingohocken and Doylestown fire companies, like others in suburban counties, are concerned about the dwindling number of newer community members interested in volunteering to join their ranks. Without sustained interest in membership, the companies will ultimately be forced to disband and an invaluable service to our community lost. All three of our fire companies welcome inquiries about membership whether as future firefighters, fire police or as members of their auxiliaries. Both men and women may serve in any of these capacities. For more information, see their websites: Midway ([www.midwayvfc.com](http://www.midwayvfc.com)), Lingohocken ([www.lfco.org](http://www.lfco.org)), Doylestown ([www.doylestownfireco.org](http://www.doylestownfireco.org)).

Ranulph Bye painted this image of the Midway firehouse in 1960. The main part of the structure was built as a meeting-house by dissident Quakers who left the original Friends meeting in 1828. The dissidents eventually rejoined the other Quakers and the handsome building they left behind was purchased by Midway in 1958. (Midway's first home is now part of the Lahaska Antique Court.)





## The Midway Volunteer Fire Company

Midway was formed in 1931, in the depths of the Depression. Because of its planned central location between the Doylestown and New Hope fire companies, the founders called it the Midway Volunteer Fire Company. Less than a year later, the company was able to purchase a fire engine for \$1500 with proceeds from its first carnival. (Their newest engine, one of two, came at a price tag of \$580,000.)



*Midway's first fire truck purchased in 1932.*



*One of Midway's new engines*

From its beginnings in a rented garage housing one fire truck, Midway now maintains a fleet of nine vehicles housed in two fire stations. The main station is located in Lahaska and is home to five vehicles. The substation, on Route 413 near Long Lane, houses four vehicles. For a tour of either station, call 215-794-5612.

### Auxiliary

Midway's Auxiliary is involved in three important fund-raising events: basket bingo in the spring, the midsummer carnival, and the fall soup sale. Shoppers flock to Peddler's Village to purchase the Auxiliary's delicious vegetable soup by the pint or gallon or to enjoy it hot from a kettle hung over an open fire in the middle of the Village. (Mark your calendars! Soup Days will be held on the first Saturdays and Sundays in November and December.)

The Auxiliary dispatches its members to the scene of a major incident to offer a special kind of help. It's a welcome sight when it's twenty degrees outside and the Auxiliary is there for the firefighters and Fire Police with hot coffee and doughnuts or, in the summer, when they bring sandwiches and ice cold bottles of water. Then, back at the firehouse after a call, they provide more of the same.

Membership is open to men and women wishing to join the fire company in a role other than firefighting. Call 215-262-7512 for information.



## The Lingohocken Fire Company

When a railroad station was built in 1891 close to the border of Buckingham and Wrightstown Townships, area residents favored calling the new village rising up around it "Lingohocken". That had been the name the Lenni Lenape Indians had called the area; its meaning, pleasant land, was (and still is) a fitting description. However, the U.S Post Office said the name was too similar to Wingohocken, another small town in Pennsylvania. The village therefore became Wycombe but when the founders organized the fire company in 1913, they returned to the ancient name and called it the Lingohocken Fire Company.

Until 1950, Lingohocken's headquarters were in Firemen's Hall, built on the site of the large lumberyard now known as Histan's Supply. In that year, the lumberyard was sold and its new owner declined to rent the firehouse to the company for a nominal fee. Since the fire company's finances were insufficient to contract for a new building, the thirty-five firemen believed that their only option was to build it themselves.

What happened is a reflection of Wycombe's still-strong community spirit. A feature article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that some 250 residents volunteered to help construct the new Wycombe firehouse. "In some capacity", the article noted, "nearly everyone in the area has gotten into the act". Area businesses pitched in too, contributing materials and equipment at cost or less. Construction began on April 1, 1950 and by the end of May, when the newspaper article was written, the new building was close to completion. In 1983, additions were made to the building to serve the needs of a growing population.



*Reprinted from The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine May 28, 1950*

*Lingohocken firefighters carry framing to the firehouse they are building themselves. Almost everyone in Wycombe Village volunteered to help.*

Lingohocken expanded its service capacity again when it established a substation in Forest Grove village. The substation was initially established after the Mill Creek bridge was damaged during Hurricane Floyd in 1999, limiting Lingohocken's access to its Buckingham service area. Although the bridge was rebuilt, the Forest Grove station was retained in view of the six hundred new homes at Buckingham Springs and another five hundred or more in Furlong.

(Those who have never visited Wycombe will have a perfect opportunity on October 19th when the Lingohocken Fire Company holds its annual Pancake Breakfast. For a scenic drive, take Forest Grove Road and cross the stone arch bridge into this little Victorian village. Still untouched by developers, Wycombe is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)



## Doylestown Fire Company

Of the three fire companies that serve our township, the fire district for which Doylestown is responsible is the smallest. Its services are, however, no less critical to the residents and businesses in its district as those of Midway and Lingohocken. Doylestown's log, like Lingohocken's, confirms the smooth cooperation of the companies as they respond to fires and traffic accidents. It seems clear that if any one of them were not operational, emergency services would be less effectively delivered than they are now.

The Doylestown Fire Company is by far the oldest of the three. Doylestown's first company was organized in 1825, but was short-lived. Companies were organized again in 1845 and 1868 but they, too, did not survive. It would be interesting to know how the area managed without a fire company throughout those long absences, especially in Doylestown Borough where structures have traditionally been built close together.

Finally, in 1879 Doylestown Fire Company No. 1 was organized and it has served this area ever since. Its impressive brick firehouse on Shewell Avenue was completed in 1903 at a cost of \$8000. Fire equipment was horsedrawn at the time, but in 1914, the company purchased its first motorized fire truck. In 1923, the company purchased a third truck capable of pumping 1000 gallons of water a minute. What is truly notable about that purchase is that the unit remains on Doylestown's current inventory and "can still pump 1000 gallons a minute all day long".

Service in Doylestown Fire Company is for many members a family tradition; its history notes that there are second, third and even fourth generation members in the company. Their roster lists 135 volunteers, including active firefighters, life and auxiliary members.

### BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

If you have questions, comments, or information related to the **Buckingham Township Report**, call or write Buckingham Township, P.O. Box 413, Buckingham, PA 18912: (215) 794-8834.

*Editor: Janet French*

*Layout and design: Beyond Words*

## Buckingham's antique car show celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

It seems like just the other day that Al Pincus and Ralph Tompkins first described their plan to establish a world class antique car show in Buckingham. Just as they promised, the show they were dreaming about then is a world class success today.

The annual Saturday night Pre-show Dinner/Dance in the big tent has itself become an important community gathering. At the dinner on Saturday, September 13, Ralph Tompkins was presented with a plaque to mark his ten years' of invaluable service to the show. At Holicong Park on the following day, auto enthusiasts from all over the tri-state area celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Buckingham's Concours d'Elegance with a display of 250 gorgeous cars.

Following the show's custom, a raffle was held again this year for a restored Thunderbird. Although tickets had been on sale since December, the 2008 winning ticket was purchased on the day of the show. The ticket holder was Sandra Rue of Columbus, New Jersey, whose husband confided that he had been buying books of tickets for the raffle for many years. The winning ticket holder has the choice of the car or \$20,000. Mrs. Rue happily chose the beautiful white 1957 Thunderbird.



*Raffle winner Sandra Rue and her husband (center) claim their prize. Show volunteer Carmen Lanzetta shares in their excitement.*

The organization behind the show is the Buckingham Land Preservation Fund, Ltd., a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation. All profits from the show, beyond the monies needed to put on the show and purchase and prepare the annual Thunderbird raffle, go into the Fund. The Fund has already donated \$100,000 towards the purchase of a conservation easement on a Buckingham farm and stands ready to contribute at least that much again to the township's land preservation program.

## Don Naylor leaves Public Works Department after 45 years

Donald Naylor was only 21 years old when he joined Buckingham's Road Department in 1963. Forty-five years later on a sunny July day, his colleagues and friends gathered at Bush Park to recall past times and wish him happiness in his retirement. Never a sitting-around kind of person, a rocking chair doesn't figure in Don's retirement plans, but he did say that he and his wife Anna are looking forward to some nice long trips on their well-traveled motorcycle.

Like his father before him, Don's management skills and his dedication to the township led to his appointment as Roadmaster, the chief of the Road Dept., in 1973. He held that position for 29 years, yielding it to Mike Taylor, Buckingham's present Roadmaster in 2002 when he felt he had borne the responsibility long enough.

In 1994 the township bought acreage on Upper Mountain Road and erected a well-planned, well-equipped building for the renamed Department of Public Works. The department's commitment and ability to keep equipment functioning — sometimes long past its expected limits of longevity — was appreciated by everyone involved in the township's operation, especially at budget time. Don set a very high standard of responsibility, and his staff never failed to rise to the challenge.

Don is soft of voice and quiet in manner even in times of stress. He was a joy to work with and, while we wish him much pleasure in retirement, we will miss his presence among us.



*Don Naylor worked for Buckingham Township Maintenance Department for 45 years.*

## Township road maintenance projects scheduled

In addition to its usual fall projects patching potholes in township roads, our Public Works Dept. crews will be traveling the roads trimming overhanging trees and other vegetation to improve sight distances and prevent damage to passing vehicles.

The crews use the winter months to do needed maintenance and repair work on their extensive equipment inventory. The department's dedication to the maintenance of these vehicles and other heavy equipment has resulted in its extraordinary longevity. The oldest vehicle in the inventory is a 1955 Oliver tractor still in use in our parks and fields. There is every reason to believe that the newest, a 2008 dump truck, will receive the same kind of care because that's always been the ethic at Public Works.

Come spring, the crews plan to restore and clean out the ditch line along our roads so that water can drain off them. Puddling water can damage roads and contribute to accidents. As they do these jobs, the crews will be checking all roads for needed repairs due to damage which has occurred over the winter.

Buckingham is always looking for ways to improve safety and maintenance efforts on our roads and in the parks. If you have any concerns or comments, please contact the Buckingham Township office at 215-794-8834.



*Coming together to celebrate Don's retirement are his family, current and former township employees and officials.*

# Buckingham Wetlands — success as a wildlife sanctuary and a demonstration site

This past spring a busload of some fifty municipal leaders, engineers, planners and environmental advocates toured six county sites where they viewed outstanding examples of innovative water/ stormwater “best management practices” (BMPs) designed to protect Bucks County watersheds. The tour was arranged by the Bucks County Planning Commission and the Bucks County Conservation District. Two of Buckingham’s projects were among the six sites showcased: our wastewater spray fields and lagoons in Furlong and the restored Buckingham Wetlands.



What are these best management practices and why should they provoke such interest? In 1997, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) published a revolutionary manual, PA Best Management Practices. The manual was intended to turn the stormwater practices of the time on their ear – and it did. The new guidelines were based on the premise that rain is an invaluable natural resource. It follows that the best way to handle it is to retain as much of it as possible as close as possible to the place where it falls. Open land suddenly became vital to good planning when it was viewed as permeable ground which will absorb rain. Wetlands also acquired new status as natural sumps which provide a means for cleaning the pollutants in runoff and allowing its slow percolation into the aquifer. The logic was inarguable and our township moved quickly to adopt DEP’s Best Management Practices.

And that brings us back to the Buckingham Wetlands. The Township Building and adjacent parking lot were constructed in 1989 adjacent to a soggy, depressed area of several acres through which a small stream runs. A stormwater basin was built nearby as a catchment for stormwater flowing from York Road and the parking lot. Designed according to then existing standards, the basin did not address either water quality or retention since DEP at that time shared a widely held view about stormwater which was simply “send it downstream”.

Soon thereafter, the building boom of the 1990s caught up with Buckingham. Developers, their engineers and other representatives were regular visitors to the Township Building. The Board of Supervisors realized that we could use the neglected area behind the building to demonstrate how wetlands can serve as environmentally friendly sumps to cleanse and retain stormwater runoff. In the process, we would be employing best management practices and helping to recharge the township’s water supply.

The proposal to create a demonstration site gathered support. Then Representative (now President-Judge) David Heckler gave Buckingham \$15,000 in state seed money. An internationally-respected Philadelphia landscape architecture firm, Andropogon Associates, helped us to conceptualize the project on paper. The project expanded to include the use of the wetlands as a wildlife sanctuary and as an outdoor classroom for Buckingham Elementary School.

In 2001, the concept and its realization came together. The Orleans Corporation, a developer in the township, had been required

by DEP to replace a small wetland area they had filled in but had not yet found an appropriate site for this mitigation. The Township Engineer asked if they would be willing to fulfill their requirement at the site behind the Township Building. Orleans cheerfully accepted and, along with their consultant, Princeton Hydro, provided engineering and labor for the project far beyond their obligation. Princeton Hydro helped the township secure a \$60,000 Growing Greener grant from DEP and planted thousands of native wetland and aquatic plants in the emerging wetlands area.

By November, 2001, we had a basin to trap sediments and other pollutants before the runoff enters the wetlands, an acre pond planted, as was the area around it, with native wetland species, a bridge across the stream and walking paths for students and other visitors. Several years ago, we added a gazebo for those who want to sit quietly and enjoy the wildlife that has been drawn to this restored and welcoming area.

To the casual viewer, the Buckingham Wetlands may not be beautiful, but for birders and other nature lovers, this wetlands has become known as a hot spot, a place pulsing with life. Over the last seven years, naturalist Ray Hendrick has noted in his journal some 160 different species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians he’s observed in our new wetlands. Rarely seen birds in this area including bitterns and egrets have been spotted at the pond. Muskrats have built their houses from the reeds and rushes growing there and mallard ducks have crowned the domed muskrat houses with their nests.

It was a place which had attracted little life and little interest. Then Pennsylvania’s Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) provided an initial push which has resulted in an abundance of creatures – some rare and wonderful – to an area once deemed a wasteland. Buckingham can say and truly mean it: this is a mission accomplished.

## Ray Hendrick solves (bird) housing shortages

The bluebird of happiness is a well-known symbol. Bluebirds are Ray Hendrick's happiness. He saw his first bluebird at the age of ten while visiting his grandparents on their Virginia farm. He had found the nesting site in an old apple tree and with great interest he watched the parents' progress as they successfully reared four babies. That experience kindled his lifelong interest in bluebirds and, by degrees, in nature's other creatures too.

Like all naturalists, he was shaken by the revelations in the 1960s that DDT and other pesticides were being found throughout the food chain and around the earth. Hailed at first for their ability to kill flies, mosquitoes and other pests, the accumulation of pesticides in the tissues of animals at the top of the food chain had deadly effects on them. Birds were laying such fragile eggs that they broke under the weight of the mother and the chicks that survived were often horribly misshapen.

Other human enterprises were taking their toll as well. As postwar building led to the clearing of forests and the paving over of farm fields, the creatures which had once lived there disappeared. Among the latter were bluebirds which have very specialized nesting needs. They build nests in cavities, but unlike woodpeckers, they don't have the equipment to create their own holes, relying instead on an earlier occupant or on a natural hole in an old tree. Ray read an article about a bluebird admirer who had built nest boxes in an attempt to lure them back. Designed to reflect the cavity size that bluebirds favored and set up in sunny, open places, the boxes had worked! Bluebirds had found them and nested in them.

In 1972, remembering that article, Ray built four bluebird boxes and installed them at the home he and his wife had bought in Doylestown. Despite his hopes, he was skeptical when his wife told him soon afterwards that she had seen a blue-colored bird sitting on top of one of the boxes. However, as he worked in his garden that weekend, he recalled that he "heard the softest warbling call of a bluebird and to my amazement, a male bluebird came flying in to one of my



*Ray Hendrick thanks Eagle Scout Miles Gombosi for the three martin bird houses and three bat houses which he built and donated to Buckingham's parks.*



boxes". Just as he had done twenty-five years before, that summer he witnessed the fledging of a new bluebird generation. "That", he said, "stoked the fire and since then I have been putting [boxes] up in areas throughout the Delaware Valley with increasingly positive results".

Eventually, the trees and shrubs he planted on his property reduced its appeal to the bluebirds who, like their relatives the robins, are happiest in grassy open areas. Unwilling to give up his trees or the bluebirds, Ray determined to find other sites for his bluebird boxes. He estimates that he has built, put up and tended over 200 bluebird houses in — among other places — Doylestown's Central Park, Central Bucks elementary school grounds, the Peace Valley Nature Center and Buckingham's parks including the Buckingham Wetlands.

Ray regularly checks his houses to determine who's using them, but unlike some enthusiasts, he doesn't evict the tree swallows, wrens or other interlopers who may move in. However, his tolerance doesn't extend to English sparrows and starlings, non-native bullies who usurp native birds' nesting sites. He noted that of the seven boxes he's erected at the wetland site, two were in use this year by bluebirds and another two or three by tree swallows.

While bluebirds are still closest to his heart, Ray has also built nest boxes for wood ducks, the little screech owl and the handsome kestrel or sparrow hawk. This year, he assisted Buckingham Boy Scout Miles Gombosi by helping to erect the three purple martin houses and bat houses, which Miles constructed as his Eagle Scout project. The houses are located at Bush and Hansell Parks and at the Buckingham Wetlands.

Ray is a charter member of the Bucks County Audubon Society and has served on its Board of Directors. He is also a long time member of the Friends of the Peace Valley Nature Center and has served on that board and on the Bucks County Park Board. His chief role as a naturalist has been one of restoration — helping to repair damages to the environment and the subsequent loss of creatures once native to the area. His successes have made our corner of the world a more interesting and beautiful place than it would be otherwise. We are grateful for his adoption of Buckingham's parks and the birds he has helped to bring back to us.

## Editor's Column

*This issue of the "Report" is largely about people who have helped Buckingham in the past or who stand ready to help us in the future. Through their efforts, they have made or are making our community a better, safer place to live. We lost two firm friends of Buckingham this past summer.*

### Robert Sugarman

Bob Sugarman died on June 27, 2008 after a long battle with cancer. With his passing, Buckingham lost a resident who loved the township and served it well. He held the important position of solicitor to Buckingham's Zoning Hearing Board.

He had previously served the township in an even more critical capacity, representing Buckingham in its monumental struggle with PennDOT. At the time, the political apparatus of the state and powerful financial interests were committed to PennDOT's plans for a four lane expressway which was to end at the intersection of Routes 202 and 313. Despite an admission by PennDOT's planners that numbers had been altered and other "information" had been rigged, PennDOT continued to insist that Buckingham would not be injured by the thousands of additional vehicles the expressway would dump at our doorstep - and the courts accepted its claim.

Where others might have given up, Bob pressed on and uncovered one more hole in PennDOT's armor. Together with Solebury Township, we went to court again. This time PennDOT's defenses literally fell apart and it had no choice but to abandon the fight. It may be impossible for anyone not closely involved in these proceedings to appreciate how close the township came to a traffic nightmare that would have been permanent and unresolvable.

As the "Intelligencer" noted, with Bob Sugarman's death, Bucks County lost a true protector. It was Bob who rose to the challenge when, in the '70s, county government agreed to let PECO transport water from the Delaware River to cool the nuclear power plant it was building at Limerick. In the West, transporting water from one watershed to another is common practice, but it often leaves the donor watershed short of water. Responding to residents' protests and believing PECO's request would set a dangerous precedent here, Bob took on the county and PECO. That was one battle he lost, but there were others of the same David-and-Goliath character where he triumphed.

What drove him was not personal enrichment, but a passion to defend ordinary citizens and their communities when their proper interests were threatened by political, economic and societal steamrollers. He was indeed a protector, who made it his calling to help his fellow citizens. Buoyant by nature, he did it all with grace and wit.

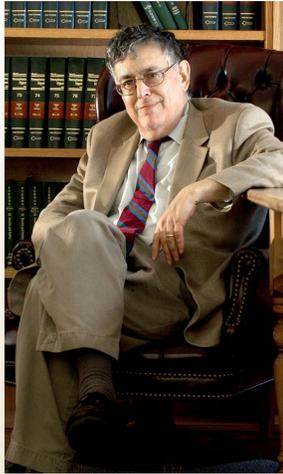


Photo by the Intelligencer

### George Collie

George Collie had been a proponent of development but in the years that the writer served with him on the Board, his views on a number of important issues changed. He established a land preservation fund with a six-figure balance – extracted from developers for that purpose. The Civic Association had warned us not to accept the services of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority which would have led to far denser development than a township operated spray irrigation system. George acted on that reasoning.

As plans came in for the curative amendment developments, we learned that the developers were prepared to build their own water and sewer systems – and presumably sell them one day to the County Water and Sewer Authority. George dispatched Buckingham's solicitor to the Public Utility Commission to present the case for a township-owned and operated system and to deny the developers' proposal. With PUC's assent, we bought out the assets of the developers' new water utilities company and built our own water and wastewater systems. They have proved to be as environmentally sound, efficient, and prudent as we believed they would be.

In the 1980s, George secured a federal grant for the twenty-acre parcel which became Holicong Park. He later embraced the opportunity to buy forty acres on Hansell Road, seeing it as a perfect site for a park to serve the families who would be coming to the Cold Spring area. He was right; that land became what is now the beautiful and well-used Hansell Park.

For years, Buckingham's Planning Commission had operated without the guidance of a professional planner. Concerned that the commission was too often caught up in details rather than the larger picture, George suggested that we hire Lynn Bush (now Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission) as its consultant. As a consequence, for the past sixteen years Lynn has provided invaluable assistance to both Buckingham's Planning Commission and to the Board of Supervisors.

In his last years, George dedicated himself to public service of a very different sort. Monday through Friday, rain or shine, he volunteered at Meals on Wheels in Doylestown, delivering hot meals to elderly and infirm people throughout the county. George was not in the best of health himself, but he knew every route by heart and had words of encouragement and a smile for every meal recipient. With his passing on June 3, 2008, Meals on Wheels lost its most dedicated volunteer.

Time has confirmed that George was a faithful steward of the township. We owe our water and spray irrigation programs, our first parks and several hundred green acres of spray fields to his initiatives. We have every reason to be grateful for that legacy.



# It's not too early to think about it:

## Public Works Department asks for residents' cooperation when it snows ❄️ ❄️

by Michael Taylor, Roadmaster

### Snow removal procedures

As winter approaches, we are making preparations to assure adequate snow removal from township-dedicated roads. What follows is the township's general snow and ice removal policy, which is adjusted as needed to address unique situations or state-of-emergency designations. In order for us to serve you better, we need your cooperation with snow removal and your observation of all related township ordinances. Please review our policy and the additional information provided here.

To deal with winter storms, Buckingham is divided into sections with a township truck and driver or a contractor assigned to each section. The priority of the township is to make the roads under its jurisdiction safe for the traveling public. As a storm begins, all the trucks are loaded with salt and sent out to their assigned areas with instructions to salt intersections, hills and curves first and then salt all areas. For the initial plowing sequence, the drivers are instructed to make one pass in each direction on a street and one pass up the middle in and out of cul-de-sacs.

Buckingham has over 89 miles of roads, approximately 90 cul-de-sacs and more roads added yearly. Our first objective is to make each road passable. After that has been achieved, we commence pushing back the snow from road edge to edge. This work may not begin until the following day; the employees will be sent home to rest after spending long, grueling hours – often through the night – working at the initial plowing effort. Employees kept on site will be there only for emergency response.



### How residents can help

#### Vehicle parking

Park in your garage or driveway. On-street parking limits our ability to clear the street and on cul-de-sacs, it makes snow removal virtually impossible. As a consequence, the snow is likely to be pushed up against your parked car making it difficult for you to extricate it.

#### Driveways

The township often receives complaints from homeowners whose recently shoveled driveway entrances have been blocked by our snow plows. Here are some suggestions to reduce this annoyance:

1. Wait until road plowing operations are completed before shoveling your driveway.
2. When shoveling your driveway, leave the last six feet unshoveled until plowing on your street is completed.
3. When shoveling your driveway, follow the diagram below to avoid having the plow cast mounds of snow back across it.

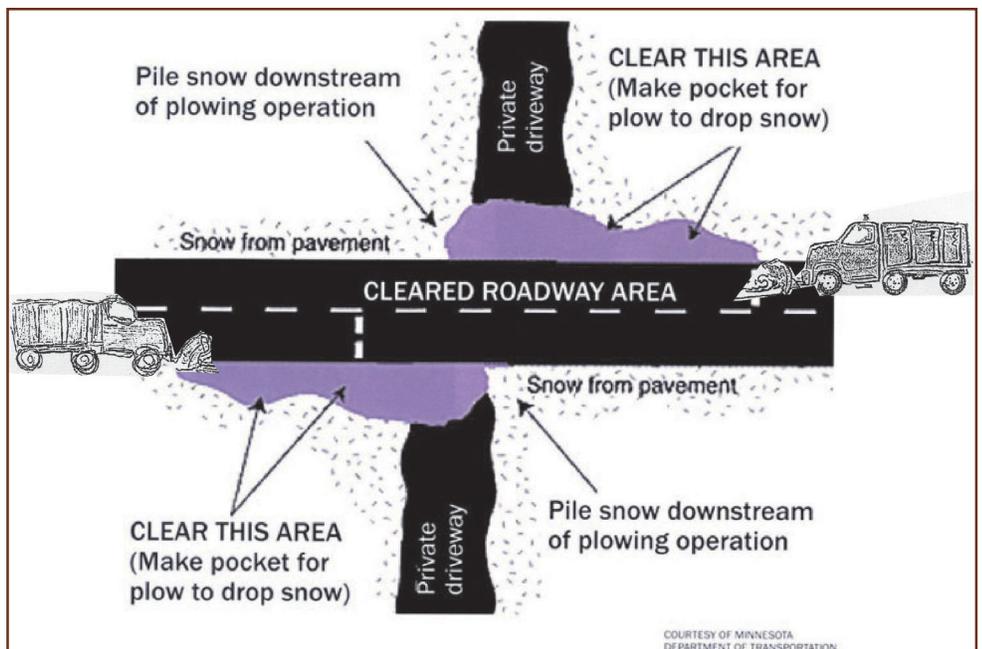
#### Other considerations regarding snow removal ❄️ ❄️

Do not throw or blow snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the street. This hampers our efforts and could subject you to a fine and/or leave you liable for causing an accident. (To review ordinances on snow removal, visit [Buckinghampa.org](http://Buckinghampa.org).)

Be aware that your mailbox is in the right-of-way and may suffer under the weight of snow piled on it. To minimize damage, check to see that your box is secure and does not have excessive overhang into the street.

Above all, please be patient. Our skilled employees need time to do their job safely and well, often under extreme conditions.

If there is an immediate or urgent problem, contact the township and leave your name, telephone number and the nature of your problem. The Public Works Dept. will respond as quickly and efficiently as possible to rectify the situation.



# RECYCLE

Lots of recycling options — many are local.

**Appliances:** Goodwill accepts working appliances ([www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org)) or contact the Steel Recycling Institute to recycle them ([www.recycle-steel.org](http://www.recycle-steel.org); 800-YES-1-CAN).

**Batteries,** rechargeables and single-use: Township recycles them. Take to Buckingham Administration Bldg.; collection bucket is inside entry area. (No vehicle batteries!)

**CDs/DVDs/Game disks:** Send scratched music or computer CDs, DVDs and PlayStation or Nintendo video game disks to AuralTech for refinishing and they'll work like new ([www.auraltech.com](http://www.auraltech.com); 888-454-3223).

**Cell phones:** Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit sends donated phones to a recycling agency and receives a modest payback in return. Ambulance unit is located at 455 East St. in Doylestown (215-348-3343). Call to Protect reprograms cell phones to dial 911 and gives them to domestic violence victims ([www.donateaphone.com](http://www.donateaphone.com)).

**Clothes:** Full Circle Thrift Shop operated by A Woman's Place, a shelter for abused women and children, accepts clothing in good condition for resale; located in the Town Shopping Center in New Britain (215-340-0120).

**Computers and electronics:** These items are accepted at the annual county hazardous waste disposal collection. Central Bucks site is at the tech school campus, Route 263 in Jamison. Collection takes place in summer; watch papers for announcement.

**Eyeglasses:** Lions Club has yellow mailbox-type receptacles in Doylestown where you can deposit glasses you no longer use. Receptacles are on West State Street at intersection with Hamilton Street and on East State Street near the County Theater (same side of street). Lenses are reground and given to people in need.

**Foam packing:** Many pack-and-ship stores are happy to accept clean foam peanuts for reuse.

**Ink/toner cartridges:** Staples in the Doylestown Shopping Center, North Main St., accepts all cartridges for recycling and offers credits for Dell, HP, Kodak and Lexmark cartridges.

**Plastic film:** Genuardi's Market at Mercer Square Shopping Center, Doylestown, accepts plastic film. Deposit in a large container placed in the inside entrance area.

**Sports equipment:** Trade equipment in good condition at a Play It Again Sports outlet (800-476-9249).

**Tennis shoes:** Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program turns old shoes into playground and athletic flooring ([www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com)). One World Running will send still-wearable shoes to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America and Haiti ([www.oneworldrunning.com](http://www.oneworldrunning.com)).

**Tyvek envelopes:** Quantities less than 25 – send to Tyvek Recycling, 5401 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Spot 197, Room 231, Richmond, VA 23234. For greater quantities, call 866-33-TYVEK.

**Wire clothes hangers:** Ask your dry cleaner; some are happy to recycle their own hangers in good condition.

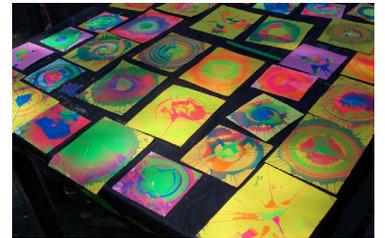
# Many residents enjoyed Buckingham's Summer Programs



*Sleeping Beauty production during Wednesday activities at Holicong Park.*



*Learning about hawks during Nature Camp days at Hansell Park.*



*Our summer campers created colorful art projects.*



*Lots of families and friends gathered for our Concerts in Hansell Park; some brought picnics and made it a special event.*



## Upcoming events sponsored by Buckingham Township

### **Friday, November 7, 7 p.m. – Movie**

*Thunderbirds*, a classic action adventure movie for the whole family.

Buckingham Room

### **Tuesday, November 11, 8 p.m. – Theatrical performance**

*Frumpled Fairy Tales*, Town & Country Players

Tickets go on sale October 20.

### **Friday, December 5, 6 p.m. –**

#### **Holiday Tree Lighting Event**

Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m. Holiday Music



**Mark your calendar for the first event of the 2009 Concert Series – June 25th, Concert and ice cream social at Hansell Park.**

Buckingham Township  
P. O. Box 413  
Buckingham, PA 18912

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18912  
Permit No. 8



## Township Boards, Commissions, Meetings and Staff

Township offices are on Hughesian Drive, just south of the intersection of Route 413 (Durham Rd.) and Route 263 (Old York Rd.).  
Township offices are open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all.

**Board of Supervisors:** Maggie Rash, Chairperson; Jon Forest, Henry W. Rowan  
**MEETINGS:** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., with a work session at 6:00 p.m.  
3rd Wednesday, work session only, 6:30 p.m.

### Meetings of Boards and Commissions

**Board of Auditors:** 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** 1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Zoning Hearing Board:** 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Park & Recreation Commission -** 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Architectural Review Board:** Call of the Chairman  
**Agricultural Security Area Advisory Commission:** Call of the Chairman  
**Agricultural Preservation Committee:** 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Historic Commission:** 4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Environmental Advisory Council:** 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Technical Code Review of Appeals Board:** 1st Monday, 4:30 p.m.  
**Sewer & Water Commission:** 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Township email address: [contact@buckinghampa.org](mailto:contact@buckinghampa.org)

Website: [www.buckinghampa.org](http://www.buckinghampa.org)

### Township Departments — Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Township Offices:** ..... 215-794-8834  
**Township Manager:** Dana S. Cozza, Esq. .... 215-794.8834  
**Finance Director:** Jill G. Pistory, CPA ..... 215-794-8834  
**Water & Sewer Dept. Director:** Graham W. Orton. .... 215-794-8834  
**Road Master:** Michael Taylor ..... 215-794-8834  
**Police Chief:** Steven P. Daniels ..... 215-794-8813  
**Building and Codes Dept.:** ..... 215-794-8836  
**Fire Marshal, Emergency Management Comm:** Jim Kettler. .... 215-794-8836  
**Tax Collector:** Dorothy Campana ..... 215-794-3070

**EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1**