



# Buckingham Township

Published by the Board of Supervisors

June 20, 2024

## Special Points of Interest:

- Summer Concert Series
- Welcome Our New Chief
- PennDOT Roundabout
- Wetlands Project
- Summer Safety Tips
- Meet our new Special Projects Coordinator
- For more information [www.buckinghampa.org](http://www.buckinghampa.org)

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## A Letter from Your Board of Supervisors

Welcome to the Spring 2024 Buckingham Township Newsletter! We are excited to report on some great things happening in Buckingham. The state of our Township continues to thrive as a community that offers an exceptional quality of life with a safe, friendly, and environmentally positive atmosphere for its neighbors and businesses. In this issue, you'll meet our new Police Chief, David Scirrotto, get some insight as to the life-saving capabilities of our police force, receive some guidance on Zoning Permits, hear about our new social media communications and learn about a Roundabout planned by PennDOT at Route 202 and Route 263 (York Road), just to describe a few of the Newsletter articles.



Paul Calderaio   Maggie Rash   Jon Forest

We would also like to prepare you for next year, which is Buckingham Township's 325<sup>th</sup> Birthday. That's right ... 325 years of heritage and history. Expect wonderful community events and celebrations in 2025!

But you don't have to wait until then to enjoy the Township Park and Recreation Activities. There's lots going on in Buckingham this summer! The Summer Concert Series at Hansell Park begins on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, with our delicious Ice Cream Social and continues Thursday evenings thru August 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit the Park and Recreation page on the Township website for more info.

If you're new to Buckingham Township, "Welcome". As your Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors, we have one main goal, that of our residents safety: **physical safety** of you and your families, **financial safety** with the lowest township tax millage rate in the county, and **environmental safety** by preserving more than one third of the township's 33 square miles, and protecting our natural resources. We are proud that Buckingham has been recognized as being exceptional in these categories over the years and continues to be, not only in Bucks County but in the whole state of Pennsylvania.

In our efforts to enhance communications with our residents and stay connected, we encourage everyone to please sign up for our new Instagram, updated Facebook page and website e-mail notifications. So sign-up, like and follow!

We are fortunate that Buckingham Township is a community of neighbors, and we have retained our farming heritage, friendliness, charm and spirit. It is an honor for us to serve the community where we live and raise our families and we would like to thank our residents for being part of that community spirit.

We wish your families a great, safe summer and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Respectfully,

Paul Calderaio  
Chairman

Maggie Rash  
Vice-Chairman

Jon Forest  
Supervisor

## Welcome to Our New Police Chief



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### ***Buckingham Township is excited Chief David Scirrotto has joined our team***

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Buckingham, May 15, 2024 - In a ceremony brimming with anticipation and community spirit, Chief David Scirrotto was officially sworn into office as the head of the Buckingham Police Department. At a notable gathering attended by respected community figures in a filled board room, a significant chapter unfolded in the town's law enforcement history. With Magisterial District Judge Maggie Snow presiding over the proceedings, Chief Scirrotto received warm applause and accolades from the audience, indicating the town's strong backing for its new police leader.

Chief Scirrotto brings with him a wealth of experience and a stellar record of service to his new role. A former member of the Air Force, he dedicated 32 years to the Lower Moreland Police Department, ultimately rising to the position of chief in 2019. Armed with master's degrees in administration and police science, Chief Scirrotto's credentials speak volumes about his commitment to excellence and his readiness to take on the challenges of leading a dynamic police force.

In his inaugural address, Chief Scirrotto expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he received from both the Buckingham Board of Supervisors and the community at large. He emphasized the importance of having a supportive environment in which to lead, noting that a united and cohesive team is the bedrock of any successful organization.

Chief Scirrotto's arrival comes at a pivotal time for the Buckingham Police Department, as the nation grapples with evolving law enforcement needs and priorities. However, with his proven leadership skills and dedication to serving the public, there is an air of optimism and confidence surrounding his tenure.

As he assumes his new role, Chief Scirrotto has made it clear that he is fully committed to building upon the department's existing strengths while implementing innovative strategies to enhance public safety and community engagement. Most of all, having done his homework concerning the present police force, he declared that "having a great team sets you up for success". With a firm belief that a great team is the cornerstone of success, Chief David Scirrotto is poised to lead the Buckingham Police Department into a new era of excellence and service to the community.

Amid transitions, it's not just about welcoming the new; it's also about acknowledging the exceptional leadership that guides us through periods of change. As the Buckingham Police Department bids farewell to one chapter and eagerly embraces the dawn of another under Chief David Scirrotto's stewardship, it's essential to pause and extend heartfelt gratitude to the individual who has been the steady hand at the helm during this transition: Lieutenant William Moffett.

## A Buckingham Police Hero - Officer Timothy Weber



There may be no scarier moment in life than seeing your loved one undergoing a cardiac arrest and trying to save them yourself. You call 911, start CPR and pray that help will arrive in time.

This past April, that is exactly what happened to one Furlong family. Shawn Harrington was jarred awake by his wife Rhiannon's abnormal breathing. She was only 40 years old and in good health, but that night she was unresponsive. From his firefighting experience with the Lingohocken Fire Company, Shawn realized what was happening and started CPR with one hand while calling 911 with the other.

Officer Timothy Weber was on patrol when he responded to the call of a cardiac arrest in progress. When he reached the scene five minutes later, he was able to shock Rhiannon's heart back into rhythm with the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from his patrol car and resume CPR until the Central Bucks Ambulance Corps arrived and took her to Doylestown Hospital. There's a happy ending—she has recovered.

What you don't know is the back story. It turns out that Officer Weber is the certified AED and CPR training officer for both the Buckingham Police Department and the Lingohocken Fire Company, meaning that Tim and Shawn are fellow firefighters.

Every member of our police department undergoes certification every two years conducted by Officer Weber. He has extensive first aid experience—16 years as a firefighter and 7 years as a police officer, the last 5 with Buckingham. So, in a truly fortunate coincidence, there was no one more qualified to take the call.

But it gets better. Three years ago, Officer Weber was called to the scene of another cardiac arrest and successfully aided that individual too. That incident was written up and came to the attention of a troop of Girl Scouts at Cold Spring Elementary School. They reached out to Officer Weber and he helped them earn a merit badge. As part of the community service aspect of the badge, the girls held a fund raiser so that the Buckingham Police Department could purchase a new AED *and that was the very one that saved the life of Rhiannon Harrington in April.*

You will be happy to know that Buckingham has four AED units—one for each patrol car on duty. So, combined with the certification requirements for our police, we are in very good hands when medical emergencies arise

The Buckingham Board of Supervisors will be giving a well-deserved commendation to Officer Timothy Weber for saving Rhiannon's life at an upcoming meeting.



Photo of Buckingham Township Police Department Personnel who were out in full force to Welcome their new Chief



## A Roundabout Solution to a Dangerous Problem

Anyone trying to drive from Route 202 eastbound onto Route 263 (York Road) may have wondered if they would (1) survive the merge and/or (2) wait an eternity at the stop sign hoping to merge. (And God help any pedestrian foolish enough to try to cross!) Most local drivers learned that it was easier to turn onto Route 413 (Durham Road) and then turn left onto York at the traffic light. This maneuver saved time and worked; provided motorists took care to be in the correct lane. In truth, both intersections can be dangerous. Over the five years from 2018 through 2022 there were thirty crashes at 202 and Durham and twenty-four crashes at 202 and York. A solution was clearly needed for the 18,000 vehicles traversing these intersections daily.

PennDOT is aware of the problems and intends to improve both crash-prone intersections by constructing a roundabout (the 202/263 junction) and fixing the misaligned lanes (the 413/263 crossing) at the traffic light. Ironically, PennDOT's engineers were in the midst of assessing the 202/263 intersection when a car with a mother and child was t-boned right in front of them. Fortunately, the occupants were unhurt, but about a quarter of the crash victims at these sites haven't been that lucky.

Crunching the numbers, PennDOT found that there had been double the crashes that would have been predicted and that 96 percent of them had no weather or environmental factors to account for them. The engineers also ran simulations showing that a roundabout is safer than a traffic light and better at reducing congestion. Since roundabouts are safer, why not construct two? No need. The congestion on Durham Road will be alleviated when people are able to make it easily onto York Road from 202. Plus, the realignment of the lanes on Durham Road—including the removal of the concrete medians—will make it safer to turn at the traffic light. Plus, the simpler construction needed to fix that intersection can be done first, allowing traffic to be detoured around the site of the more complicated roundabout construction. So, that light will stay.

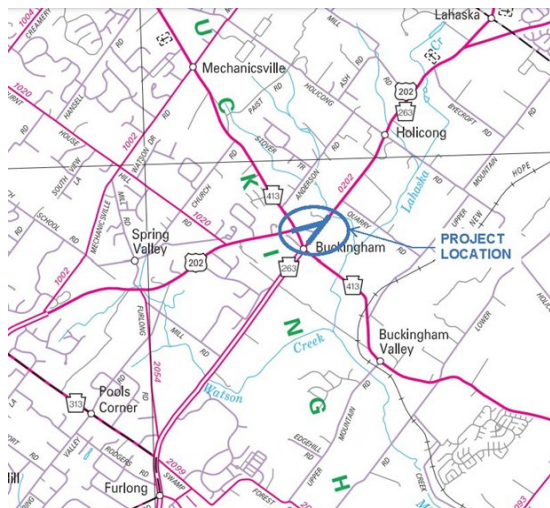
If the thought of a roundabout conjures up images of New Jersey's wild and crazy traffic circles, relax. A roundabout is specifically designed to calm traffic (and nerves) by guiding motorists with curbs, yield signs and road markings along a logical path to reach where they want to go. Slower traffic means more reaction time and a safer drive. Plus, drivers will be able to notice possible pedestrians before their attention shifts to merging into the roundabout. In turn, pedestrians will have to look in just one direction to see oncoming cars.

More good news: (1) PennDOT is using federal funds, not our local tax dollars; (2) the design will facilitate emergency vehicle access and accommodate all sorts of vehicles including large trucks, school buses, farm vehicles and bicycles; (3) the intersection will have new LED lighting focused on the pavement; and (4) PennDOT will construct stormwater management facilities, sidewalks, bike trails and ADA compliant crossings.



Penndot has set up an informational page on their website under Design and Construction Projects Bucks County titled U.S. 202 and York Road Roundabout Construction

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/RegionalOffices/district-6/ConstructionsProjectsAndRoadwork/BucksCounty/Pages/U.S.-202-and-York-Road-Roundabout-Construction.aspx>



**Scan this QR code to  
stream the recorded  
PENNDOT webinar!**

## Zoning Permits (Not to be confused with Building Permits)

The zoning ordinance in Buckingham is about 250 pages long, mostly single spaced, utilizing a very small font and undoubtedly written by a team of people who know a lot more about zoning than the average person. If you are planning a project, the best advice we can possibly give you is *don't try to read through the ordinance on your own*. (Unless you are suffering from insomnia, in which case you have your cure, but you are unlikely to have your answer.)

If you choose to ignore this warning, you will find that the ordinance covers zoning in specific areas, including natural resource protected areas. You will discover an array of setback requirements, prohibitions in covering too much land with impermeable surface construction, cutting down certain trees and disturbing slopes, plus height limitations, permissible uses and permissible structures.

So, suppose you want to put up a fence, replace an aging shed, construct an in-law suite, build a garage, expand a deck, put in a swimming pool with a patio . . . what should you do?

You or your contractor need to call Township Zoning Officer Richard G. Myers at (215) 794-8836. Mr. Myers has mastered the intricacies of the ordinance. He is thoughtful and helpful and will save you a ton of aggravation. The last thing you want to do is go through the hassle of constructing without a permit and discovering that your project is out of compliance with the ordinance.

Please note that a zoning permit is not the same as a building permit. The zoning ordinance regulates the use and location of improvements and/or activities on your property. A building permit regulates the actual construction methods based on the state-approved building code. Not all projects require a building permit. In some cases a required building permit does not require a zoning permit. Confused? Call Mr. Myers.

## The Wetlands Project—A Hopeful Coalition

Behind the township building stretches a peaceful wetlands oasis where redwing blackbirds soar and the only sounds are the rustle of leaves, the chirping of birds and the croaking of frogs. But all isn't well in paradise: Invasive plants such as multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet and autumn olive have staked a claim and are doing their best to drive out native foliage, to the detriment of the creatures that make the wetlands their home.

The good news is that a coalition of residents, expert gardeners, the township, and an environmental organization is undertaking a restoration. This article will explore what they intend to do. The next newsletter will tell the story of how they did.

Recently, two student groups—one from Central Bucks East and the other from Holicong—reached out to Master Gardener Jennifer Finelli of Bucks Beautiful with a planting project agenda. One group wanted to hold fundraisers and the other wanted a hands-on project. Bucks Beautiful decided to match the student funds and coordinate the eventual plant purchase.

To further this goal, Jennifer Finelli contacted the township to find a suitable location and ended up partnering with the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and its co-chair Jim Walter, another Master Gardener. The wetlands area was selected.

More people became involved. The Master Watershed stewards will remove the invasive plants in the wetlands prior to planting. The Master Gardeners will select native plants appropriate for the site, such as Sweetbay magnolia, red bud and Serviceberry trees, mixed summersweet shrubs, and perennials such as milkweed, blueflag iris, aromatic aster, woodland phlox and wild Bergamot. The EAC and the students will help with installation.

The team effort will beautify the area while also providing a suitable habitat for our pollinating insects, birds and small animals. Expect to see lots more Monarch butterflies, bumble bees, honey bees, green bees, hummingbirds, gold finches, chickadees and cardinals when you walk the soft wood-chipped path. You can even sit on a bench in the newly-repaired gazebo and survey the peaceful domain.

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## Buckingham Township's Paper Shredding Success



Buckingham Township's recent paper shredding event was a triumph for waste reduction and environmental preservation. In total, 4,500 pounds of paper were recycled, equivalent to 2.3 tons, saving an estimated 38 trees. The effort also diverted 7 cubic yards of waste from landfills, and by recycling paper alone, 5 barrels of oil were saved!

Stay tuned for more information on our next paper shredding event, Saturday October 19th!

## Buckingham Welcomes Brittany Clark as Special Projects Coordinator

On April 8<sup>th</sup> Buckingham Township welcomed a Special Projects Coordinator on her first day of work. After only a month on the job, the dynamo known as Brittany Clark had transformed the virtual life of the township. Those of us wedded to paper might never notice, but Brittany has made the township website much more interactive, given us an Instagram page and started posting on Facebook. Every bit of news is now available simultaneously so people can use their social media of choice to stay informed.

What's improved? For example, if you want to learn about Parks and Recreation, with a few keystrokes, you can find out about the staff, the individual parks, the park rules and the schedule of events.

Want to give feedback to the township? You can now submit your concerns virtually.

Communication works two ways, external and internal. We as residents need to know what the township is doing, but the employees of the town also need to know what is happening. Brittany is the human link between both sides. Toward that end, she is busily meeting every employee, a process she characterizes as "delightful" and a way to feel connected herself.

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## Stay Connected with Buckingham Township

Picture this: you're sipping your morning coffee, scrolling through your phone, and suddenly, you stumble upon a vibrant community buzzing with life. Welcome to Buckingham Township's online world, where every click brings you closer to the heart of our township. Buckingham Township is stepping up its communication game, and we want you to be a part of it! So, whether you're a seasoned social media pro or just dipping your toes into the digital waters, we invite you to join us on Instagram and Facebook.

Scan the QR codes or visit @buckinghamtownship on Instagram and Facebook to embark on this exciting adventure with us.



FOLLOW US ON  
**Instagram**

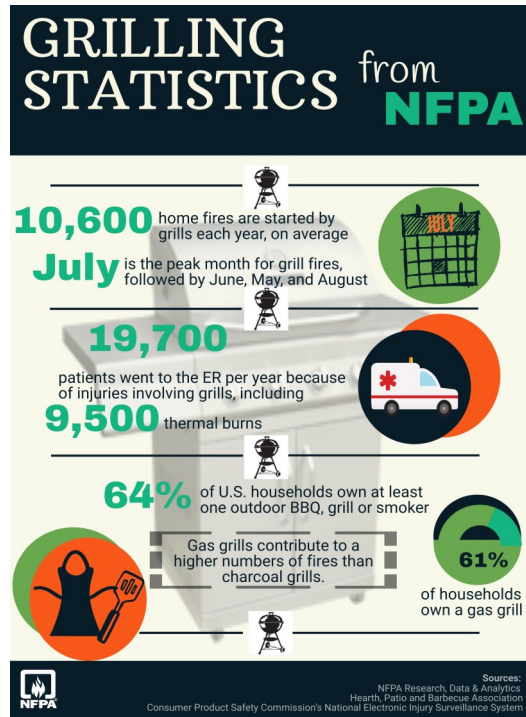


*Follow us on Facebook!*



## Summertime and the Livin' Is Easy (Unless Something Goes Wrong)

### Grilling in General:



Maybe it's primal. Maybe our unconscious selves remember living in caves and cooking wooly mammoths over open fires. Whatever it is, about 2/3 of American households own a grill, whether charcoal or gas. Simply put, the food that is cooked and eaten outdoors is special.

Our first responders agree. They like barbequing as much as you do. What they don't like to see are burns and house fires. So, after consulting with Jim Kettler, Buckingham's Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator, here is how to stay safe:

Use long-handled utensils and grill mitts. According to data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, over 22 thousand patients end up in emergency rooms each year because of injuries involving grills.

Place your grill at least 3 feet from siding, deck railings, eaves and overhanging branches. Keeping a safe area around grills is a big problem in our township. Our fire marshal has seen lots of homes with melted siding from grills being placed too close to houses.

Keep children and pets away from the grill.

Clean your grill and any trays underneath it with a wire brush before (or after) every use to remove excess grease. In roughly one-fifth of

fires, the grill had not been cleaned. (But make sure you haven't left any wire bristles on the grill lest they end up in your food.)

Never leave a lit grill or fire pit or torch unattended.

### Propane grills in particular

Check the gas tank hose for leaks prior to using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak by smell or with the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

*If you are cooking when you smell gas, get away from the grill and call the fire department immediately! Don't try to move the grill.*

Only light a gas grill with the lid open. If the flame goes out while you're cooking, turn off both the gas and the grill and wait five minutes before restarting it.

### Charcoal grills in particular

If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add flammable liquids to open flames. Keep the fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources. If you are using an electric charcoal starter, use an extension cord.



## Swimming Pool Safety

There are no words to describe the horror of losing a child to drowning. Every year across America hundreds of children aged one to four die this way, 80 percent at residential pools. In fact, drowning is the leading cause of accidental deaths in that age group. Thousands more are injured badly enough to require a trip to the emergency room. Unlike how we imagine the scenario with a child splashing and yelling for help, these tragedies happen quickly and often silently.

What to do?

Designate an adult whose sole responsibility is watching the children in the water. No texting. No phone calls.

Make sure your child has swimming lessons as early as possible.

Learn CPR.

Check drain covers to make sure that they are VGB compliant to prevent entrapment. Compliant drains eliminate the dangers of suction entrapment, whether of a limb or a bathing suit or hair. (VGB was the eight-year-old granddaughter of Secretary of State James Baker. Little Virginia drowned in a hot tub because of a defective drain cover.)

Prevent access to your pool with approved fencing and self-closing/self-latching gates.



## Firework Safety

Our fire marshal has only one bit of advice here: go to a professional show.

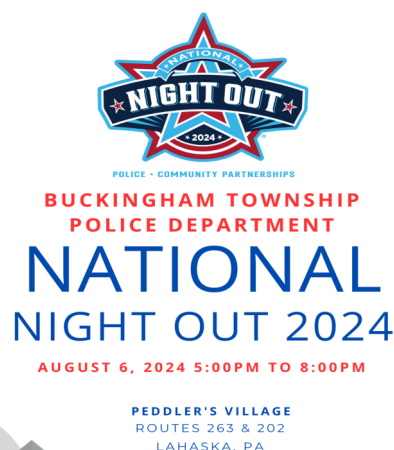
## Third Annual National Night Out

The Buckingham Township Police Department is pleased to announce our third annual National Night Out event hosted by Peddler's Village! This free, family friendly event is fun for both adults and children. Join us in building stronger relationships between law enforcement and our neighbors!

Come enjoy a K-9 demonstration, a bounce house and foam party for the kiddos (or adults too!), sand sculptures, hot dogs, and cotton candy!

Please check the Buckingham Police Facebook page or the Buckingham Township website [www.buckinghampa.org](http://www.buckinghampa.org) for more details!

Thank you so much to Peddler's Village for partnering with us for this event, and for providing activities and food for our community.



## Happy (Almost) 325th Anniversary Buckingham 1700-2025

There's a name for a 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It's Quasquitercentennial. (Who knew?) Although Buckingham's anniversary is next year, planning is already underway by the 325 Year Anniversary Committee.

Coming soon, we are excited to announce the launch of our dedicated 325th-anniversary page on our Buckingham Website, where you can explore historical timelines, photos, and fascinating stories from our past. Get ready to dive deep into the history of Buckingham Township like never before!

Be sure to visit our Parks and Recreation webpage on our website, township calendar, and social media sites for updates on upcoming events, contest details and many more happenings for 325 & don't forget to use #Buckingham325 for a chance to be featured on our township website.

We invite you to join us as we honor the legacy of Buckingham Township, celebrate our present achievements, and unite in commemorating 325 years of community resilience and progress!

***Buckingham  
Township will be  
hosting many  
325 Events  
throughout 2025***

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## Photo Contest - Be a Part of the 2025 Buckingham Township Calendar

All Buckingham residents are invited to take your best picture of Buckingham Township—the scenery, your kids playing at the park, a special location or you can use your imagination!

Residents have been invited to take up to three photographs in the township—could be of an event, a location, scenery etc.—and submit them via email to [mjatkinson@buckinghampa.org](mailto:mjatkinson@buckinghampa.org) with the subject line Photo Contest. Please include your name, address, and a brief description of the photo. Selected photos will appear in the 2025 Buckingham Township Calendar. Residents can see the submitted photos at the Hansell Park concerts and the Township Building. Deadline for submission is September 1, 2024

The selected photographs and their photographers will be announced in late September with calendars available in December 2024.

\*all submitted pictures become the property of Buckingham Township

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## Buckingham Township Memorial and Commemorative Bench Program

We are pleased to announce a new program whereby Township residents may purchase a bench to commemorate a loved one. The benches can be located in any of the Township Parks.

The donation for the bench is \$600.00 to cover the costs of the bench and installation by the Public Works Department. You will be responsible for purchasing the 3 x 6 inch plaque to be installed once the wording is approved by the Township. Benches are made in the USA and are 5 feet long.

To initiate a purchase, please call Mary Jane Atkinson at (215) 794-8834.

## Buckingham Township Summer Concert Series

\*All Concerts will be held 7pm-9pm at Hansell Park (Route 413 and Hansell Road)  
Rain location is Buckingham Springs Club House. Located off Route 413 in  
Buckingham.

June 20th - "The O'Fenders" and Ice Cream Social

June 27th - "Funky Cowboy"

July 4th - NO Concert Enjoy your Fourth of July!

July 11th - "Cherry Lane Band"

July 18th - "Echo of the British Invasion"

July 25th - "Yesterday's Gone"

August 1st - "Slim and the Perkolators"

August 8th - "Big Chill"

August 15th - "End of Innocence"




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## Day in the Park - Thursday, June 27th 11am to 2pm



Join your friends and neighbors at this annual fun day at the new Holicong Park Expansion. There will be pony rides, dunk tank, fire trucks and work trucks. Participate in some field games and play Go Fish. Free hot dogs and more.

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## Red Cross Blood Drive at the Township Building

The next Buckingham Township Red Cross Blood Drive will be held  
September 13, 2024 from 2pm to 7pm.




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*If you have any questions, comments, or information related to the Buckingham Township Newsletter, write  
Buckingham Township, P.O. Box 413, Buckingham, PA 18912, call (215) 794-8834 or email at  
[contact@buckinghampa.org](mailto:contact@buckinghampa.org). A special thanks to our Author Susan Sciacca.*

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



## Buckingham Township

### Board of Supervisors

**Paul Calderaio, Maggie Rash, Jon Forest**

Board of Supervisors' Meetings are 4th Wednesdays and as needed 2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm with a work session at 6:00pm. Meetings are open to all.

#### **Township Departments - Offices open Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm.**

Township offices are on Hughesian Drive, just south of the intersection of Rte 413 & Rte 263

#### **Administration ..... 215-794-8834**

Township Manager: Dana S. Cozza, Esquire

Finance Director: Jill Pistory, CPA

Director of Roads and Facilities: Eric Hinz

#### **Building and Codes Department..... 215-794-8836**

Bldg Dept Director, Fire Marshal and Emergency Mgt.: Jim Kettler

#### **Police Department (non-emergency).....215-794-8813**

Chief of Police: David Scirrotto

#### **Water and Wastewater Department..... 215-794-8854**

Water and Sewer Dept. Director: Steve Clark