

Borough  
of

# PERKASIE

## Connection



SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Letter From The Mayor .....2
- Save The Date .....2
- Electric Rates Down .....3
- Electric Department .....3
- 2015 Budget .....4
- Trash & Recycling .....4-5
- Celtic Parade & Festival.....5
- Recreation Dept.....6 & 9
- 2015 Concert Schedule.....6
- Experiencing Growth  
(continued from cover) .....7-8
- Building & Permit Fees .....8
- Annual Report From  
Justice Baum .....10
- Pothole & Road  
Maintenance .....11
- Fire Department .....11
- Stormwater Pollution  
Prevention .....12
- Borough Hall Contact  
Information.....13
- Eagle Scout .....13

## PERKASIE EXPERIENCING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2015

In 2013 Perkasio Borough was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to develop a Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan was developed by the Perkasio Planning Commission with the help of the Bucks County Planning Commission and input from the entire community. The final document (accessible from the Borough website) outlines the future goals of the Borough for the next ten years.

In 2014, the Perkasio Borough Council took a proactive stance on economic development by slashing most permit fees in half. Not only has this fee reduction attracted developers, it has also encouraged residents and existing businesses to improve and upgrade their properties. Overall revenue from permit fees, despite the reduction, increased in 2014 because of the significant amount of activity.

### HOW DOES NEW DEVELOPMENT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY?

New investment in the Borough benefits residents and businesses in several ways. Residential projects bring new customers to local businesses. New businesses benefit residents by providing goods and services as well as new jobs.

In 2014, the Borough Council adopted a modification to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which regulates development in the Borough, requiring public dedication of land and fees-in-lieu to benefit the Borough's parks and recreation facilities. Public dedication is based on the concept of impact fees; development creates increased demand for municipal services or facilities. Requiring developers to provide amenities or funding for expanded or enhanced public amenities is an efficient and equitable way to offset some of the impacts of new development. Residential developers must now provide 1,500 square feet of protected open space per dwelling unit or \$1,500 per unit in lieu of dedication.

*Continued on page 7...*



LEFT: The old Meyer's block (Courtesy of the Perkasio Historical Society). RIGHT: 7th and Chestnut concept sketch by Stampf Associates.



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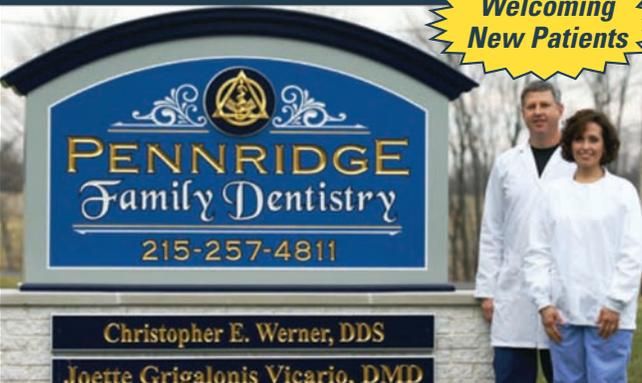
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## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors and friends,

With the holidays behind us as we journey through the cold, short winter days it is more important than ever to be mindful of our neighbors. It is easy to get lost in the warmth of our homes, and the routine of our daily activities, job, school, shopping, and become shut off from others and withdraw into ourselves and our warm homes. Sadly, this can be the very thing that keeps us separated from and blind to those in need who may be right next door, across the street, or around the corner.

I would ask each of you, indeed all of us, to be aware of each other.

Recently, I was reading about a friend of mine who is wheelchair confined who said that the answer for him lay not in the many clichéd words of comfort or even in scripture, but rather in the caring relationships, the tender touches, and kind voices. We are not meant to just provide, although provision can be critical, but to actually be accessible to those in need. The answer is in being aware of one another and knowing that we can make a difference on a daily basis.

How can you make a difference? Check out how you can volunteer in our community; call the Borough office, Pennridge FISH, Meals on Wheels, boy or girl scouts, Pennridge Little League, local churches or check in with your neighbors. Surprise them, and surprise yourself, you will be amazed with what can happen!

Make this winter a warm, sunny, and happy time of the year!

Blessings,

John Hollenbach, Mayor

### Save The Date

Mark your calendars now for the following events:

<b>March 13</b>	<b>Family Friday - Steve Pullara and Cool Beans Music</b>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Celtic Fest and Parade</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Up &amp; Back to New York City Bus Trip</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Perkasie Garden Club Garden Tea Party</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>First Annual Perkasie Fishing Derby</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Earth Day Celebration</b>
<b>April 30</b>	<b>Last Day for 10% Discount on 2015 Memberships to Menlo Aquatics Center</b>



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# ELECTRIC RATES DOWN ANOTHER 3% IN 2015

## COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS TO SEE 25% REDUCTION IN DEMAND CHARGES

The 2015 budget preparation began in July of 2014, a month earlier than normal, so that Council members could get a clear picture of the Borough's financial status and have time to discuss electric rates.

"For 2015, we still have a contract left from 2008," said Council member & Public Utility Chair Jim Purcell. "Despite that, we still wanted to try to pass along another rate decrease. We got a start early on the budget and were able to get the rates down even more than last year."

When approving the 2015 budget in late December, Borough Council voted to give excess funds in the general fund back to the residents in the form of a rate decrease. In general, a 1% decrease in rates equals about \$100,000. The 3% decrease in all rates (except the customer charge) plus the 25%

decrease in demand for commercial customers will cost the Borough an estimated \$500,000. Weather and customer usage could result in an increase or decrease in that estimate.

"Our Department Heads worked hard over the last few years to come in at or under budget," stated Council President Jim Ryder. "That resulted in savings at the end of each year. Instead of keeping that money idle in the bank, we all agreed to give it back to the residents and businesses."

And what exactly is the demand charge seen on commercial electric bills? Commercial and industrial customers are billed for their hourly consumption patterns and their peak demand for energy. These customers have special meters that measure consumption and demand, unlike residential meters that just record total consumption in one month.



### From Your Electric Department: Understanding Demand and Consumption

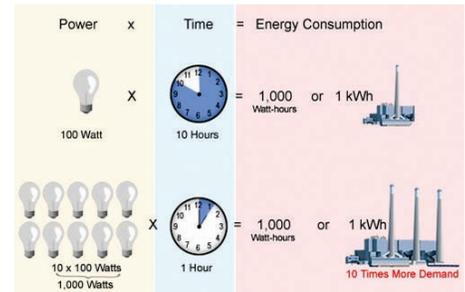
The difference between demand (KW) and consumption (KWH) is vital to a commercial or industrial customer's choices in reducing energy costs. A simple way to see the difference between demand and consumption is by considering an example.

#### Lighting Example:

One 100-watt light bulb burning for 10 hours consumes 1,000 watt-hours or 1 kWh. The entire time it is on, it requires or "demands" 100 watts or 0.1 kW from the utility. That means the utility must have that 0.1 kW ready whenever the customer turns

the lamp on.

Similarly, ten 100-watt light bulbs burning for 1 hour consume 1,000 watt-hours or 1 kWh. Note that in both examples, the consumption is 1 kWh, however,



look how differently the second situation impacts the utility from a demand perspective. The serving utility must now be prepared to provide ten times as much 'capacity' in response to the "demand" of the 10 light bulbs operating all at once.

If both of these customers are billed for their consumption only, both will get the same bill for 1 kWh of energy. And that is the way most residential customers are billed. But the requirement for the utility to meet this energy requirement is very different. In the second case, the utility has to have 10 times more generating 'capacity' to provide the second customer's brief high demand for power compared to the first case.

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## 2015 BUDGET ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY BOROUGH COUNCIL

At the request of the Perkasio Volunteer Fire Company, a referendum was held in November to increase the fire tax by ½ mil to 1.5 mils (there are 1000 mils in a dollar). This increase was overwhelmingly supported by the residents and the Fire Tax is the only local tax that was increased in 2015.

The final budget, as adopted on December 15, 2014 sets the real estate tax rates at 6.25 mils with 4.75 going to the General Fund and 1.5 mils to the Fire Protection Fund.

The 2015 budget totals \$17,894,623.

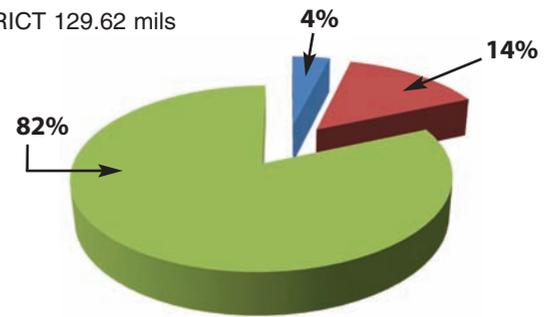
### Specifically:

General Fund	\$ 5,435,282
Menlo Aquatics Center Fund	\$ 357,450
Refuse Fund	\$ 450,155
Electric Fund	\$ 9,673,600
Fire Protection Fund	\$ 124,081
Capital Fund (including reserves)	\$ 1,664,100
Highway Aid Fund	\$ 189,955

The chart below illustrates how your real estate taxes are allocated between the Borough, the Pennridge School District and Bucks County.

### HOW YOUR REAL ESTATE TAXES ARE SPENT

- PERKASIE BOROUGH 6.25 mils
- BUCKS COUNTY 23.2 mils
- PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 129.62 mils



## TRASH AND RECYCLING

### Don't Kick that TV to the Curb!

Why? Televisions, along with computers and some other electronics (covered devices), can no longer be disposed of with municipal waste under the Covered Devices Recycling Act of 2013. Many of these electronics contain mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium and other potentially hazardous substances. In addition to keeping these toxic substances from contaminating groundwater when landfilled, it is less expensive to recycle than to mine rare earth minerals used in the manufacturing. Listed are several locations to drop off your television, and companies that will come to pick up your television for recycling. While some companies will recycle your television at no cost, please confirm the program, fees, and any other conditions that may apply prior to recycling your television.



Contact the Department of Environmental Protection at 800-346-4242 for a list of other Recycling events.

#### LOWER BUCKS AREA

##### E-Waste Experts

416 Green Lane  
Bristol, PA 19007

**877-328-2927**

Must call prior to drop-off

##### Best Buy

310 Commerce Boulevard  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

**215-949-3006**

#### CENTRAL BUCKS AREA

##### 611 Metals

4095 Ferry Road  
Doylestown, PA 18902

**267-221-6924**

##### Best Buy

801 Bethlehem Pike  
North Wales, PA 19454

**215-855-3528**

#### UPPER BUCKS AREA

##### 611 Metals

6776 Easton Road  
Pipersville, PA 18947

**267-221-6924**

##### Best Buy

646 N. West End Boulevard  
Quakertown, PA 18951

**215-804-0039**

#### Greenspot Locations

(Check [www.GREENspotDROPOff.org](http://www.GREENspotDROPOff.org) for other locations)

##### Huntingdon Self Storage

875 Lieberman Circle  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

**215-947-9111**

#### CALL FOR PICK-UP

**1-800-Got Junk** – 1-800-468-5865

**E-Waste Experts** – 1-800-328-2927

**Junk Luggers** – 1-800-584-5864



### SPRING LEAF COLLECTION

Watch for notice of the date in April when spring leaf collection will begin. Once the date is set, it will be announced on the Borough website, Facebook page and Twitter.

www.





# TRASH AND RECYCLING

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR PICK UP OF TRASH AND RECYCLABLES



Holiday - No collection scheduled	Date for pick up
<b>Good Friday – Friday, April 3</b>	Recycle pickup Friday, April 10
<b>Memorial Day – Monday, May 25</b>	Trash pickup Tuesday, May 26
<b>Independence Day – Friday, July 3</b>	Recycle pickup Friday, July 10
<b>Labor Day – Monday, September 7</b>	Trash pickup Tuesday, September 8

*Perkasie, Sellersville and Pennridge Chamber of Commerce Partner to Present*

## THE FIRST EVER CELTIC PARADE AND FESTIVAL

The Pennridge Chamber of Commerce has joined with the boroughs of Perkasie and Sellersville to inaugurate a Celtic Festival and Parade on Saturday, March 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The day will begin with a parade from Sellersville (parking lot at Maple and Lawn) across Main Street, following Temple to 4th Street. The Grand Marshal will be Bucks County Commissioner Robert Loughery.

The parade will follow 5th Street into Perkasie, turn on Market Street and end at the parking lot on 8th Street, near Market. In the Towne Center area (7th & Market Streets) there will be a music tent with Irish music all afternoon featuring Timlin & Kane and the Belfast Connection, a beer tasting tent hosted by J.T. Bankers featuring Irish beer and Perkasie's Free Will Brewery Company fare plus vendors, food and more.



*Timlin & Kane*



*Belfast Connection*

*For more information, call 215-257-5390 or visit [www.pennridgecc.com](http://www.pennridgecc.com).*



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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

As the Recreation Department gears up for summer, we also have several recreation programs and events for this spring. Registration information for all Perkasi Recreation programs is available on our website: [www.perkasierec.com](http://www.perkasierec.com).

### LITTLE WARRIORS FLOOR HOCKEY

This class is for boys and girls in grades 1 through 5. The class is held on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 in the gymnasium at Guth Elementary School. The spring session will run from February 23 through March 30 (no class March 23). Cost is only \$50.00.



### MINI KICKERS PRE-SCHOOL SOCCER PROGRAM

Wednesdays April 15th through May 20th

Ages 2-3 – 3:00-4:00 pm

Ages 4-5 – 4:00-5:00 pm

**\$80.00 per child includes soccer shirt and soccer ball.**

At Lenape Park, Constitution Avenue

Register at:

<https://challenger.mycustomevent.com>.



### FISHING DERBY

Perkasie Parks and Recreation will be holding our first Fishing Derby on April 18th at the Perkiomen Creek. The time will be from 8:30 am-10:30 am and will cost \$10 to register. You can pre-register on the Park and Rec website: [www.perkasierec.com](http://www.perkasierec.com) or at the event.



We will be giving away prizes for the heaviest, biggest, and smallest fish caught. Anyone over the age of 15 must have a valid PA fishing license to participate in this event. Children age 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

### UP & BACK TO NEW YORK CITY



We had such a good time in November, we are going again. Cost is \$30.00 per person for round trip motor coach transportation from Perkasi to Times Square. The day is your's to plan: see a show, go to a museum, visit a gallery, do some shopping, sightseeing or whatever. The bus leaves Perkasi at 8:00 am, arriving in Manhattan at 10 and will depart for home at 6:00 p.m. returning to Perkasi at 8:00 p.m. Register now, the last trip sold out.

**MENLO AQUATICS CENTER: 2015 MEMBERSHIPS ARE ALREADY ON SALE. THE RATES ARE THE SAME AS 2014 AND THERE IS A 10% DISCOUNT FOR ALL MEMBERSHIPS UNTIL APRIL 30. SEASON MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE ONE (1) COMPLIMENTARY DAILY PASS FOR EACH MEMBER.**

### EARTH DAY

The Borough is planning an Earth Day event for the community on April 25th in Menlo Park from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Celebrate and learn how each of us can do our part to being environmentally friendly. Crafts, games and demonstrations based around "going green" will be featured. Admission is free. Bring the family! Contact the Park and Recreation Department for more information.



### COMING SOON! OUTDOOR TENNIS WITH BUCKS COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Perkasie Borough and the Bucks County Tennis Association (BCTA) will partner this spring to bring brand new tennis programs right to Second Street Park! Programs will start mid-April and will run through mid-October for both youth and adults. Includes USTA programs, Youth Team Tennis, Adult Leagues, instructional programs, etc. -- All skill abilities welcome! Program specifics, including dates and times, will be posted approximately March 1, 2015 at [www.perkasierec.com/info/default.aspx](http://www.perkasierec.com/info/default.aspx) and [www.buckscountytennis.usta.com](http://www.buckscountytennis.usta.com).

## 2015 SUMMER CONCERT SCHEDULE

**JULY 1 – THE BOOGIE DOGS**

*An evening of good old rock n' roll.*

**JULY 8 – THE QUAKERTOWN BAND**

*A local favorite returns.*

**JULY 15 – THE DIXIELAND KINGS**

*Join us for some Dixieland jazz all the way from New Orleans.*

**JULY 22 – CLASS REUNION**

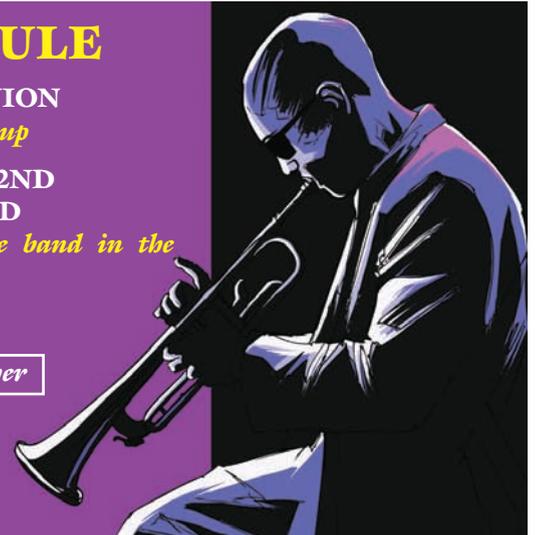
*A doo-wop and acapella group*

**JULY 29 - DANNY V'S 52ND STREET BAND**

*The best Billy Joel tribute band in the Delaware Valley.*

**AUGUST 5 – rain date for any concerts canceled due to inclement weather**

- All Concerts are held at Menlo Park from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.
- Bring your own chairs or blankets. No alcohol allowed.
- The Menlo Aquatics Center snack stand (operated by Perkasi Pizza and Pasta) is open during the concerts for your convenience.



## PERKASIE EXPERIENCING GROWTH.....

Continued from front cover



LEFT: The old Leshler's 5 & 10. RIGHT: Architect's drawing of the proposed new Leshler's Building by Charles Reichl, AIA.



### REBUILDING THE TOWN CENTER

The highest priority goal of the Borough of Perkasio's Comprehensive Plan was to continue the redevelopment of Perkasio's Town Center District. The Town Center was partially demolished in the 1960s and then further destroyed by fire in 1988. Final modified development plans have recently been approved by Council to begin construction at 7th & Market Streets where the former American House and Leshler's 5-10 store were located. The two parcels there have been vacant for 26 years.

In courting developers to Perkasio, they were first shown the 7th & Market Street parcels and were so enamored with the community that they then explored several of the large undeveloped land tracts. Three of these parcels are now under an agreement of sale, and one has submitted preliminary land development plans. The majority of these parcels were zoned for residential development in the future.



LEFT: Former American House. RIGHT: Concept sketch by Stampfl Associates of new "American House."

### LONG AWAITED 7TH & MARKET STREET DEVELOPMENT

The first parcel, previously Leshler's 5 – 10, and closest to the alleyway on 7th Street near Emerald Carpet, will include first floor retail spaces and six apartments. The building at the corner of 7th & Market Streets will be named after its predecessor, the American House, and have very similar architecture as a three story mixed-use building that will host ground floor retail specialty stores and ten apartments.

### NEW BUSINESSES

There are several new Town Center businesses, most recently the Bread Box & Bakery on Market Street along with Chimayo Gallery and Sisters U. Other new businesses within the Town Center include Bliss Salon, Park Club Fitness & Wellness Center, new owners for Perkasio Olde Towne Tanning, and the relocation of Isabel March Photography on 7th Street.

The commercial building located across 7th Street from the Post Office was recently sold and is now undergoing a facelift. Formerly occupied by Rep. Clymer and others, the new owner will fill the space with a dental practice that specializes in providing care to Medicare patients. New landscaping and a fresh look to the exterior of the building will dramatically change that block. The building will also be accessible to patients with a variety of needs.



LEFT: The new Bread Box & Bakery which opened in 2014. RIGHT: Sisters U and Chimayo Gallery share a building on Market Street.



Isabel March photography moved to a 2nd floor suite on 7th Street in 2014.

### WALNUT STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT

Three new businesses opened on Walnut Street; Black Cat Tattoo, Kasey's Consignments and a showroom for Bucks County Soapstone. Two former Walnut Street businesses, Tsunami Karate and Isabel March Photography, have expanded and relocated within the Borough.

### SOUTH SIDE PERKASIE

Several new businesses joined the list of Borough enterprises, including a manufacturing facility for Eric & Christopher Pillows and Remedy Simulation Group, which makes anatomical models for the medical industry. These businesses occupy units next to the existing Olde Towne Cardio Boxing and the Pennridge School District. Free Will Brewing, Perkasio's microbrewery, expanded this past year, opening a highly stylized tasting room and expanding their bottling line and production capabilities.



LEFT: Pulse Anatomical is located in the industrial park on Walnut Street. CENTER: Free Will Brewery expanded to include a tasting room in 2014. RIGHT: Eric & Christopher Pillows came to Perkasio in 2014.

### ADAPTIVE RE-USES – OLD BUILDINGS REDEVELOPED

Construction at the former Draper Building at 9th & Market Street is well underway. The property owner, a local to the Perkasio area, is converting the empty 10,000 square foot factory building into 6 high-end luxury apartments. The top floor is expected to become a 3,000 square foot penthouse apartment with exposed brick walls and beams.

Another remodel project by the same local developer is occurring at 610 Chestnut Street in the Town Center District. This former apartment building was recently sold, and has been completely gutted. While a final decision on its future has not been made, it is expected to be converted into a high-end mixed use building or luxury apartments, similar to the housing conversion at the former Draper building.



*An architectural rendering of the revitalized Draper Building, by Wolstenholme Associates.*

### PRELIMINARY LAND DEVELOPMENT - PERKASIE WOODS

On the site of the former Perkasio Industries factory, Metropolitan Development and NV Ryan Homes, one of the nation's top builders, is proposing the construction of around 140 town homes. This property was in foreclosure with QNB Bank and is now fully paid off.

The site will have its own homeowners association that will maintain its roads and complex. There will also be two small pocket parks and ample landscaping, along with connections to the Borough's existing park system.

This development next to the Perkasio Square Shopping Center will help revive this complex that recently added a new national chain store, Dollar Tree, which took up four vacant storefronts. If approved, the new townhomes will also bring in new disposable family income into the community.

***The Perkasio Borough Planning Commission meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Check the Borough website or call Borough Hall in advance. All meetings are open to the public and Borough residents are encouraged to attend and participate.***

### MOST BUILDING & PERMIT FEES REDUCED FOR SECOND YEAR

At their meeting on December 15, 2014, the Borough Council voted unanimously to extend the reduced fee schedule into 2015, which cuts many building, zoning, and subdivision/ land development fees by 50% .

All of the fees included in the reduction are listed on the Borough's website. Building and construction fees for residential construction, additions, garages, and accessory buildings, including demolition and roof permits, have been cut in half. Electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits were also reduced.

"Reducing the fees had a very positive impact on this town in 2014, so we thought it best to continue," stated Jim Ryder, President of Perkasio Borough Council. "We've had many new investments and inquiries from area business interests wanting to become part of the Perkasio community, and have a few new residential developments that may reach the land development phase this year. Our community as a whole is pulling together and working on maintaining a very attractive community. And whether you are doing a new construction project or small renovation project at your home, every dollar saved is a dollar that can be used to improve another facet of a family's quality of life."

Fees related to non-residential development and subdivisions will also see a 50% reduction, although those fees associated with professional review will continue at the same rate.

"We're creating an ideal situation for current and new businesses of all sizes, and investors. It's really like having a sign that says 'Open for Business' in Perkasio," said Council Member Matt Aigeldinger. "We have a few unique parcels in town that would be a great opportunity for development or redevelopment. This move will provide an incentive for businesses to move forward with their plans to renovate an existing building or build new on an empty lot."

"We're working towards re-building the Town Center to what it was many years ago," stated Council Vice-President Jim Purcell. "Having a vibrant, walkable downtown with shops and dining opportunities that will satisfy all different tastes and styles is the goal. In 2014, we had a few unique manufacturers come into town. This town thrived on manufacturing in the past so it's great to see that continue."

More information on the fees can be found on the Borough's website or by calling the Borough at (215) 257-5065.



## HISTORIC MENLO CAROUSEL SCHEDULE FOR 2015

The historic carousel at Menlo Park will open for the season on Mother's Day, May 10 from Noon to 5:00 p.m.

### Other dates for 2015 are

Monday, May 25	11:00 – 5:00
Sunday, June 21	Noon – 5:00
Sunday, July 5	Noon – 8:00 pm (Raindate July 12)
Sunday, July 26	Noon – 5:00
Sunday, August 16	Noon – 5:00
Sunday, September 13	Noon – 5:00
Sunday, October 4	Noon – 5:00
Saturday, December 5	Noon – 5:00

*The carousel is operated by the Perkasio Historical Society.*



## DISCOUNT SKI TICKETS

Don't let the snow go to waste. You can purchase vouchers for ski lift tickets, rentals and lessons at many of the ski resorts in the Poconos at the Borough Hall. Save time standing in line as well as saving money by purchasing the vouchers ahead of time.

The Borough has tickets for Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Elk Mountain, Shawnee, Camelback, Bear Creek and more. Cost and savings vary based on the day and time of use. Please note that the Borough only accepts credit cards or cash in payment; no personal checks. The ski vouchers are for sale Monday- Friday during normal working hours.

## PERKASIE GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Perkasio Garden Club is hosting a Garden Tea Party as its annual fund raiser. These are the details:

- Saturday April 11, 2015
- James-Lorah Auditorium 132 N Main St. Doylestown
- Doors open at 12:30
- Full Afternoon Tea Served Promptly at 1:00
- Tickets are: \$30 (advance) \$35 at the door (limited seating available)
- Program: Kent Russell "The Garden Guru"

**Kent Russell**, well-known perennial specialist and garden club raconteur, will share his garden experiences and talents just in time for Spring Container Gardening. The family nursery, Russell Gardens in Bucks Co, inspired his love of gardening. At 19, he established his renowned property, Renny-Hortilus Farm Nursery, which has been featured in numerous lifestyle magazines nationwide. Recent presentations include the Newport and Philadelphia Flower Shows and consist of a live plant demonstration. He will have a large selection of plants available for purchase.

- For Tickets Contact Maryann Fisher at 215-362-0335 or fisher2186@verizon.net

The Perkasio Garden Club sponsors a number of activities within the community such as filling the 30+ planters located throughout the town with colorful flowers each spring and fall.



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## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT FROM JUSTICE BAUM



### DISTRICT COURT REPORTS

#### 15% DECREASE IN CRIMINAL CASELOAD FOR 2014

Following a 10 percent increase the previous year, criminal cases filed in the area's District Court in Perkasie decreased by 15 percent during 2014, according to Perkasie District Judge Charles W. Baum.

Total criminal cases filed by local and state police for the past year numbered 384, down from 454 in 2013 and 411 in 2012, according to Judge Baum, now in his tenth year as the local magistrate. "The crime rate in our particular area fell more than double the rate in all of Bucks County, which is obviously a good thing," said the veteran judge.

He said court statistics show all other areas of court filings were down, including motor vehicle citations, non-traffic cases, landlord-tenant disputes and civil cases for small claims matters under \$12,000 in value.

Baum said statistics showed a 40 percent decrease in traffic citations, down from 3950 in 2013 to 2363 this past year. Authorities said severe winter weather last year resulted in a drop in citations with fewer vehicles on the roads and nowhere to pull them over with all the snow. State Police traffic citations also dropped 47 percent for the year, as many troopers were called out of the area in the fall for the Eric Frein search in the Poconos for nearly two months. Several local officers were also out for extended leaves during the past year, resulting in an average 30 percent drop in motor vehicle citations by the local departments.

Non-traffic citations for things like disorderly conducts, truancies and municipal violations were down seven percent from 386 to 359. Landlord-tenant filings were down five percent, while civil cases (including numerous credit card delinquencies) were also down a similar amount, possibly a sign of an improving economy.

The Perkasie court covers Perkasie, Sellersville and Trumbauersville boroughs, the Bucks County side of Telford Borough, as well as East and West Rockhill and Milford townships. The District Court is located in the Re-Max building, first floor, at Seventh and Market streets in Perkasie.

The court receives the majority of its citations and criminal complaints from four local police departments: Perkasie, Pennridge Regional, Telford and Pennsylvania State Police in Dublin. For most citizens, this "grass roots" level of the judicial system may be the only court they will ever encounter.

In criminal cases, district judges advise defendants of their rights, set their initial bail and hold preliminary hearings to determine if there is enough evidence to forward the matter to county court. There are 20 district judges in Bucks County and each judge also serves a week of on-call night duty every 10 weeks.

The district court is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the court phone number is 215-257-5181.

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## POTHoles AND ROAD MAINTENANCE

### REPORT POTHoles AND ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES DIRECTLY TO PENNDOT

*If you are traveling on,*

- 5th Street from Market to Blooming Glen
- Market Street from Ridge Road to 7th Street
- Main Street from Callowhill to Walnut
- Constitution Avenue from Walnut from the Borough line with Sellersville to the Borough line with Hilltown
- Ridge Road within the Borough
- West Park Avenue from Ridge Road to the border with East Rockhill Township at Holly Drive
- Tunnel Road from Ridge Road to the East Rockhill Township border



*you may be dodging pot holes.*

These roads are classified as “state roads” and as such the Commonwealth (PennDOT) maintains them. Perkasie Borough does not maintain or repair these roads. [The Borough does have a winter maintenance agreement with PennDOT to plow and salt all of these roads except for Ridge Road (entire length) and Walnut Street from Constitution Avenue to the border with Hilltown.]

Let PennDOT know if you have concerns about the conditions on any of these roads. The PennDOT Customer Care Center (CCC) is a portal for the residents of Pennsylvania to submit their concerns. <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/pennDOT/districts/district6/d6ccc.nsf>. PennDOT defines

a Concern as something that requires PennDOT attention for resolution such as potholes, drainage issues, or deer carcass removal.

A concern should not be submitted for immediate needs or issues that could create safety concerns, like missing signs or roadway hazards. If the concern requires immediate attention, please call 1-800-FIX-ROAD to be connected directly to the county maintenance office in your area. PennDOT requests that you refrain from using derogatory language whenever submitting a concern.

***For Emergencies, please call 911 in addition to submitting the concern for PennDOT review.***

## PERKASIE FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.

#### SAFETY TIPS

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified electrician.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.

Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.

- Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home. Use a qualified electrician.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

#### IMPORTANT REMINDER Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



Your Source for SAFETY Information • NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

## HAVE A SAFE WINTER SEASON WHILE PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION



Snow and ice on roads, parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks can create hazardous conditions for people and property. Environmentally, snow and ice removal is best done with plows and shovels rather than chemical treatment. However, given severe winter weather, the results are not always sufficient when safety is in mind. The use of chemical ice melting solutions such as road salt and sand is often a necessary solution to combating freezing precipitation. Here are some practices that can minimize the negative effects of chemical use this winter.



### EFFECTS OF SAND AND SALT

Salt and sand have traditionally been perceived as the cheapest and most effective materials for de-icing driving and walking surfaces. However, many people do not realize that they have hidden impacts that can detract from their overall effectiveness.

#### EVEN IN SMALL QUANTITIES, SALT CAN:

- Deplete the oxygen supply needed by aquatic animals and plants
- Leach into the ground and change soil composition, making it hard for plants to survive
- Contaminate groundwater and surface waters
- Deteriorate paved surfaces and infrastructures

#### SIMILARLY, SAND CAN:

- Bury the aquatic floor life, fill in habitats, and cloud the water
- Cause premature deterioration of floor surfaces as it is tracked into buildings

- Lose its effectiveness after becoming embedded in snow and ice
- Enter catch basins, storm drains, and surface waters if it is not swept up each spring
- Contribute to clogged storm drains, which can cause flooding

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**Snow & Ice Removal:** Attempt to remove snow by hand through shoveling or snow blowing. Apply salt only if necessary.

**Salt Application:** Follow the instructions on the package and use only enough to break the ice/pavement bond. Do not throw down salt near waterways.

**Sand Application:** Use only enough to provide traction on slippery areas. Sweep up excess sand after snow has melted.

**Snow & Ice Disposal:** Do not dispose of snow & ice in wetlands, creeks, harbors, or other waterways or directly on top of storm drains.

*Information in this article provided by Village of Port Jefferson's Stormwater Management Program*

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Eagle Scout candidate Tim Yates pictured in front of the refurbished kiosk and map at Lenape Park. The new map provides information on the history of Lenape and Menlo Parks as well as a map of the trail.




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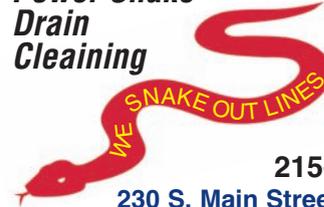
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|-------------------|----------------------------------|
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| 3-14-15           | Soup Sales                       |
| 4-2-15 to 4-4-15  | Easter Flower Sale               |
| 4-19-15           | Basket Bingo                     |
| 5-17-15           | Breakfast                        |
| 7-7-15 to 7-10-15 | Carnival - Sellersville Fire Co. |

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