

FALLS TOWNSHIP

Fall / Winter 2018

Bucks County, Pa.

A Look Inside the Budgeting Process

As we enter fall we are also entering the busiest part of the budget season for the Falls Township government, and I think it's worthwhile to let our residents know what goes into the process. The Township's fiscal calendar is the same as the regular calendar, which spans January through December. The process of creating the budget is really a non-stop enterprise, involving a wide range of people.

The formal budgeting process starts in late summer when the Finance Department, led by Betsy Reukauf, begins by sending department directors their preliminary budget worksheets. Each director is asked to project their spending through the end of the year and estimate their budget needs for the new year for their respective department. The director is also required to submit any capital project requests for the next year. The department heads create their budgets using knowledge of issues and concerns they have gained throughout the year regarding existing equipment replacement or repair, new equipment needs, operational changes they have made which could lead to less money being needed for one thing or another, as well as many other items needed to keep the Township running properly and efficiently.

Once the year-end projections are made, Mrs. Reukauf uses them, along with her following year projections, to prepare a preliminary budget. Mrs. Reukauf also estimates the income the Township is likely to expect in the next year. Income enters the Township coffers in different ways, such as property taxes, permit and inspection fees, state aid for things like road repairs and police operations, income from Waste Management tipping fees, as well as fees from services such as the boat ramp, summer camp and other Park and Recreation programs. Creating a projection of what income is expected also involves analyzing trends for all those income sources over the past several years. Using trend analysis, the Finance Department also makes projections about future expenditures on things like salaries, insurance, fuel, electricity, etc. After these tasks are complete, Mrs. Reukauf forwards this information to the Township Manager, Peter Gray.

Mr. Gray reviews the preliminary budget with each department head to discuss the tentative budget for their department, working within a set amount of money he has allotted for each department. These allotments differ for each department with the Police Department receiving the largest share. Allotments for capital projects are based on all Township needs that become important and may not have been planned for. As an example, the Township will have to replace a bridge on South Olds Boulevard next year due to it failing a state inspection. This was unexpected and therefore will impact the amount of money allotted for other projects or operations. In some cases, department heads will ask for more than their allotment and then be asked to justify that request. Mr. Gray also meets with the Township Engineer, Jim Sullivan, to examine roads that need re-paving or reconstruction as part of the Road Program and plans which roads are most in need of work, and which can afford to be done.

Once the Manager's meetings with the department heads are complete and he has made suggested changes, he has individual discussions with members of the Board of Supervisors to seek their input on the budget and inform them of the discussions he has had with department heads and decisions he has made regarding the budget. In many ways these discussions with Board members simply reinforce discussions between the Manager and the Board throughout the entire year regarding personnel, projects and operations.

Once those discussions are complete, the Manager directs the Finance Director to finalize the budget draft and prepare a public presentation, which is always done during a Board meeting, usually in November. The budget is advertised and discussed in at least two Board meetings and then voted on by the Board in December. The budget is also displayed online, at local libraries and at the Township building for review by residents.

The Chairman's Message Continues on Page 2

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Falls Township Contact Information

188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100 • Fairless Hills, PA 19030
 Website: www.fallstwp.com • Email: admin@fallstwp.org
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Robert J. Harvie, Jr. Chairman
 Jeffrey Dence, Vice Chairman

Jeffrey Rocco, Secretary / Treasurer

Brian Galloway, Supervisor
 Jeff Boraski, Supervisor

Administrative Offices: 215-949-9000

Police Information - Press 5

Township Information - Press 6

After you press 6 for Township Information, the following numbers indicate each department

Township Manager - 7

Peter Gray, Township Manager

Code Enforcement/Permit Information - 1

Thomas Bennett, Zoning Officer/CCEO

Fire Marshal Emergency Management, Environmental - 2

Richard Dippolito, Fire Marshal

Public Works Department - 3

Jason Lawson, Public Works Director

Parks and Recreation - 4

Brian Andrews, Director

Finance Department - 5

Betsy Reukauf, Director

Tax Office - 6

Kimberly Scarpiello

Police Department: 215-949-9100

William J. Wilcox, Chief of Police

Animal Control: 215-945-3100

Township Tax Collector

Kimberly Scarpiello
 188 Lincoln Highway,
 Suite 108
 Fairless Hills, PA 19030
 215-949-9008

Township Engineer

James C. Sullivan
 T and M Associates
 448 Lincoln Highway,
 Suite 202
 Fairless Hills, PA 19030
 215-486-5770

Township Solicitor

Michael P. Clarke
 Rudolph Clarke, LLC
 Seven Neshaminy Interplex
 Suite 200
 Trevoise, PA 19053
 215-633-1890

District Court - 07-1-10

Jan Vislosky, District Judge
 9187 New Falls Road
 Fallsington, PA 19054
 215-736-0231

A Look Inside the Budgeting Process

The Chairman's Message Continued From Page 1

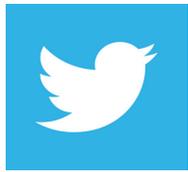
Falls Township is especially fortunate to have a lot of expertise when it comes to the budgeting process. The Finance Department staff is wonderful and Mrs. Reukauf, our Finance Director, has won numerous awards for her work. In addition, Mr. Gray, our Manager, was the Finance Director for Falls Township for almost a decade before becoming

Manager, and he also received numerous awards for his work. The Board and the Township's administration takes its financial responsibilities to you very seriously and crafts budgets with an eye toward making every dollar count. We feel confident that when it comes to our fiscal responsibility, Falls is "First in Bucks."

-Bob Harvie

Police Department

Find Us On Social Media



Falls Township Police department is now on social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter. Follow us to get information on what's going on in your neighborhood.



No Solicitation Registry

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance that allows residents to add their name to a No Solicitation Registry. This list is distributed to anyone that applies for a Solicitation Permit with instructions not to solicit at any of the addresses on the list. To be placed on this list, please contact the Police Records department at **215-949-9100**, or you may use the link on the Township website <http://fallstwp.com/tools-resources/no-solicitation-registry.aspx>.

Anonymous Tip Line: 215-949-9120



Falls Township Police has created a tip line allowing the public to contact the Police department anonymously.

Members of the public are encouraged to report suspicious individuals or activity. Tips are then analyzed and passed on to the appropriate division for follow-up. Because the tip line is anonymous, the sender will not receive a response.

The tip line is not an emergency number. If you witness a crime in

progress or have an emergency that requires the police, please call 911.

Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in your area.

Neighborhood Watch is a group of concerned citizens, joining together to assist local law enforcement in identifying and reporting suspicious or criminal activities in their neighborhoods.

By taking an active role in the protection of their homes and families, residents are better able to discourage criminal activity and keep their neighborhoods safe.

For more information, please contact **Officer John Yeager, 215-949-9100 ext. 434** j.yeager@fallstwp.com.



Rapid Recovery Program



When an autistic child or an adult with Dementia wanders off and gets lost, finding them quickly can sometimes make a difference between life and death. The Rapid Recovery Program is a tracking system that consists of a small bracelet

worn by someone that is at risk of wandering. It is designed to locate missing special needs children, as well as Alzheimer and Dementia patients.

This bracelet transmits a signal for up to a one-mile radius, allowing search and rescue efforts to be quicker, finding the individual in minutes instead of hours.

This program is available to all Falls Township residents and surrounding communities.

If you know anyone who would benefit from this program, or would like additional information regarding Rapid Recovery, please contact the Falls Township Police Department at **215-949-9100**.

Citizens Police Academy

The Falls Township Police Department's Citizens Police Academy is designed to educate Township residents about department procedures, responsibilities and demands on Police officers. Some of the topics that will be covered include: An overview of the department's structure; recruitment and training; interview techniques; a visit to the (911) county radio room; traffic enforcement; as well as observation of court hearings at the local District Justice. In addition, participants will be given an opportunity to "ride along" with a Patrol officer.

Check our website, Facebook or Twitter for dates.

"Coffee with a Cop"

Coffee with a Cop allows Police and residents to come together in an informal, neutral space to sit down with a mix of officers, detectives, sergeants, lieutenants and the Chief to ask questions, discuss happenings in the area, voice concerns, and get to know the officers who patrol their areas. This is a great way to strengthen police-community partnership and build friendships throughout the community.

Coffee with a Cop is just another way to allow our residents to make Falls Township a better place to live.

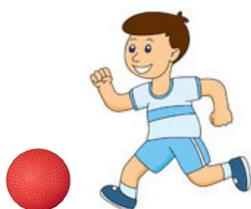
Check our website, Facebook or Twitter for coming dates.



Parks and Recreation

Youth Kickball

Falls Township Parks and Recreation is once again holding a youth kickball program (ages 7-11) on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Mill Creek Road Sports Complex (Levittown Continental Challenger Field). The program begins Sept. 8 and concludes on Oct. 13. Cost for a resident is \$10. Cost for a non-resident is \$15. For further information or to register, please contact Brian Andrews at **215-949-9000 ext. 220**.



Turkey Bowl Kickball Tournament

Parks and Recreation will be looking to hold its 4th annual one-day Double Elimination Turkey Bowl Kickball Tournament for those ages 18 and over on Saturday, Nov. 10. Entry fee per team is \$100. Tournament proceeds will be donated to a local food pantry. For information, please contact Brian Andrews at **215-949-9000 ext. 220**.



Movie Night in the Park

Looking for an opportunity to spend some quality family time? Look no further. Come out to our **FREE** movie night at the Falls Township Community Park (soccer fields) on Saturday, Sept. 22 for a showing of "Muppets Most Wanted." The movie will begin at 8:15 p.m. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For information, please contact Brian Andrews at **215-949-9000 ext. 220**.

Yoga

Yoga continues on Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Office (Room 105) at the Township building, 188 Lincoln Highway. Six-week sessions cost \$60 for residents, or \$66 for non-residents. The drop-in rate is \$12 per class. For further information or to register, please contact Brian Andrews at **215-949-9000 ext. 220**.



Christmas Tree Lighting

The Annual Falls Township Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Saturday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at Three Arches, 335 Trenton Road. This event is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. For information, please contact Barbara Loessy at **215-949-9000 ext. 221**.

Have Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 15



Our annual Breakfast with Santa event will take place Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Falls Township Senior Center. A nominal fee of \$1 per registrant will be charged. Event is for children of all ages. Pre-registration will be required through your Capturepoint account. A delicious breakfast will be served, and children will have the opportunity to complete a craft project and get their picture taken with Santa. For information or to register, please contact Barbara Loessy at **215-949-9000 ext. 221**.

Halloween Party

Parks and Recreation is excited to announce it will be holding its annual Halloween Party for children (all ages) on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Falls Township Senior Center. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Games, arts and craft activities, and prizes for the best costumes will be awarded. A nominal fee of \$1 will be charged for each registrant. Pre-registration is required for this event through your Capturepoint account. Any questions, please contact Barbara Loessy at **215-949-9000 ext. 221**.



Parents Night Out

Need to get that last-minute holiday shopping completed or just need a night out? Parks and Recreation will hold a Parents Night Out program for children ages 5-12 (must be potty trained) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in early December. (The date will be announced at a later time). Kids will enjoy sports, playing board games, arts and crafts, etc. All of our staff have the current background clearances required by Pennsylvania State Law. Pre-registration will be required through your Capturepoint account. Please call Barbara Loessy at **215-949-9000 ext. 221** to get an update on the finalized date for the program. Cost for a resident is \$5 per child; or \$8 per child for non-residents.

Parks and Recreation Board Meetings

The Parks and Recreation Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at Three Arches (335 Trenton Road) at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. Note: The first meeting of the fall will be Tuesday, Sept. 4. For questions or further information, please contact Barbara Loessy at **215-949-9000 ext. 221**.

Que Raises \$21K for Liberty USO

Falls Township's ninth annual Que for the Troops Bar-B-Que competition lived up to organizers' goal of continuing to be bigger and better than years past. Even with the ominous threat of torrential downpours, 61 teams faced off in the Kansas City Barbecue Society Sanctioned event, with Uncle Pigs Barbecue Pit winning Grand Champion and Old Virginia Smoke winning Reserve Grand Champion.

Since its inception in 2010, more than \$105,000 – including \$21,350 from this year's event – has been raised for nonprofit organization Liberty USO, which supports our military and their families in Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

The 2018 Que for the Troops was supported by fireworks sponsor KPK Development Company, as well as a variety of event sponsors, including First National Bank, Rudolph Clarke, LLC, Jones Engineering, Britton Industries, Flager & Associates, Peruzzi Auto Group, Bidlingmaier & Bidlingmaier, P.C., T&M Associates, Burns Auto Group, IBEW Local #269, Remington & Vernick Engineers and Vaughan Insurance Managers.

The 2019 Que for the Troops will be held the first weekend in June. To learn more, visit www.queforthetroops.com.



Falls Township Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Jeffrey Dence (right) congratulates members of the Uncle Pigs Barbecue Pit on winning the 2018 Que For the Troops Bar-B-Que competition.

Falls Welcomes New Businesses

Falls Township has had the pleasure of welcoming more than a dozen new businesses to town in the last six months.

A tenet of our Live Here, Spend Here campaign is that by shopping Falls first we continue to bolster our local economy, creating jobs and helping our local businesses to thrive.

Here are some of the most recent new business additions:

- ReMax Total**, 120 Trenton Avenue, Fairless Hills
- Flowers Nails & Spa**, 364 Trenton Avenue, Morrisville
- Hollywood Customz**, 41 Cedar Lane, Suite B, Morrisville
- Tom McGonigal's Mixed Martial Arts**, 8621 New Falls Road, Suite C, Levittown
- Prime Storage**, 400 Tyburn Road, Morrisville
- Widener Metals**, 253 Lower Morrisville Road, Suite A, Fallsington
- Brooke Straiton Photography**, 423 S. Oxford Valley Road, Fairless Hills



T.W. Construction, 1700 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Morrisville

Quality Moving and Transportation, 199 Canal Road, Suite 200, Fairless Hills

Ace Philadelphia, 8 Headley Place, Fallsington

CAC Tire & Auto, 41 Cedar Lane A, Morrisville

Jones Engineering Associates, Inc., 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 206, Fairless Hills

Right Image Hair Salon, 636 Lincoln Highway, Suite 6, Fairless Hills

Car Nation of Bucks County, 394A Lincoln Hwy, Fairless Hills

Exxon, 299 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville

Robert C. Olivieri, Jr, PC, 429 South Oxford Valley Road, Fairless Hills

Community Services for Children, 333 North Oxford Valley Road, Fairless Hills

Four Seasons Wholesale, Inc., 12 Headley Place, Suite 100, Fallsington



Marty McLoughlin (bottom right) and his wife, Linda Stout (bottom center) of Extreme Fitness Personal Training, present a check to the Falls Township Board of Supervisors to benefit the Youth Police Academy.

Community Raises Funds for Youth Police Academy

Thanks to generous contributions from two recent Township events, the Falls Township Youth Police Academy received a total of \$6,600 to support its program.

Extreme Fitness Personal Training owners Marty McLoughlin and his wife, Linda Stout, collected a total of \$5,600 in donations from the Fallsington 5K and one-mile walk. The couple presented a check to police officer John Yeager during a Falls Township Supervisors meeting.

In spite of having 200 fewer 5K participants, McLoughlin said the Township “did not lose in generosity.” Through the donations of local organizations and businesses, he was able to contribute even more funds this year as compared to 2017.

Recognizing that a 5K is “not some-

thing everyone wants to do,” McLoughlin said he has a “plan for next year to do things a little differently.” While details are still coming together, he told the Supervisors that he envisions holding an event at Falls Township Community Park.

Supervisor Jeff Boraski, who helped organize the township’s Touch-A-Truck event, said \$1,000 from that event’s fundraising efforts would be transferred to the Youth Police Academy.

Officer Yeager noted the “awesome partnership” the police have with Extreme Fitness Personal Training and others who help fundraise to support the program.

The Youth Police Academy is open to all students entering ninth- through 12th-grade, as well as 2018 high school graduates who are interested in law enforce-

ment or the military.

“The student has to go to school and not be a discipline problem,” Yeager said, adding that he requires a mandatory parent or guardian meeting to review the curriculum.

Youth Police Academy participants will learn about the crimes code, crime scene investigation, patrol scenarios, use of force, physical training and more.

Supervisor Chairman Bob Harvie lauded the donations as supporting a “good cause.”

“It’s been a tremendous success,” he said.

For more information about Falls Township’s Youth Police Academy, visit <https://www.fallstwp.com/departments/police/youth-police-academy.aspx>.

Congratulations

Falls Township would like to recognize our dedicated staff for reaching years of service milestones in their employment.

5 Years

Nicholas Phillippe

10 Years

Michael Callahan Michael Carr Brian Fisher
 David Gold Betsy Reukauf Mary Stockton John Vella

15 Years

Richard Krotz MaryJo Westerhold

20 Years

Christopher Clark Catherine Coffman

30 Years

Todd Pletnick Leon Thompson Nelson Whitney Jonathan Caesar

35 Years

Joseph Arnao David Snyder

45 Years

William Wilcox



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Law: Contractors Must Register With State

In 2008 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act 132 enforced by the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney General. It requires all contractors who enter into a contract with a homeowner for work more than \$500 to register with the state. Be sure the contractor you use meets the following requirements when entering into a home improvement contract for your property.

A contractor shall include its registration number in all advertisements, distributed and on all contracts, estimates and/or proposals with owners created by a contractor within the Commonwealth.

No home improvement contract shall be valid unless it:

1. Is in writing, legible and contains the home improvement contractor registration number of the performing contractor.
2. Is signed by the owner, his agent or other contracted party and the contractor or a salesperson on behalf of the contractor.
3. Contains the entire agreement between owner and contractor, including attached copies of all required notices.
4. Contains the date of the transaction.
5. Contains the name, address and telephone number of the contractor. Note: A post office box number alone shall not be considered an address.
6. Contains the approximate start and completion date.
7. Includes a description of the work to be performed, materials to be used and a set of specifications that cannot be changed without a written change order signed by the owner and contractor.

8. Includes the total sales price due under the contract.

9. Includes the amount of any down payment plus any amount advanced for the purchase of special order materials. The amount of the down payment and the cost of the special order materials must be listed separately.

10. Includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all subcontractors on the project known at the date of signing the contract. Note: A post office box number alone shall not be considered an address.

11. The contractor agrees to maintain liability insurance covering personal injury in an amount not less than \$50,000 and insurance covering property damage caused by the work of the home improvement contractor in an amount not less than \$50,000 and identifies the current amount of insurance coverage maintained at the time of signing the contract.

12. Includes the toll-free telephone number (888-520-6680) of the Office of the Attorney General's public access number to obtain information as to whether a contractor is registered with the bureau as well as information that may be obtained on the bureau's website: www.attorneygeneral.gov.

13. Includes a notice of the Right of Rescission i.e.:

a. "An individual signing a home improvement contract, except as provided in the emergency provision noted in the act shall be permitted to rescind the contract without penalty regardless of where the contract was signed, within three business days of the date of signing."

For more information, contact the Code Enforcement Department at 215-949-9000.

Know About Stormwater Management?

Falls Township is actively involved in a variety of programs and initiatives to meet various state and federal requirements for clean water.

We need your help to make a positive impact on our environment and the water that is so important to us all. Stormwater originates from rainfall and other precipitation that runs off of surfaces all over the Township - rooftops, streets, construction sites, lawns, fields, etc. Stormwater makes its way either along the surface or soaks into the ground. Surface water flows into swales, storm drains, and other natural water courses. As this water moves toward streams and rivers, it will pick up loose things on the ground with it. This can include pollutants, sediment, leaves and trash.

The Township is actively involved in meeting statutory permitting requirements under state and federal law. The water that soaks into the ground becomes part of the groundwater. For residents who get their water from wells, or our public water supplies, this becomes your drinking water. The Township is therefore developing a variety of programs and strategies to enhance water quality through plantings, mowing strategies, implementation of stormwater management facilities and other best management practices.

The Clean Water Act is the federal legislation that governs stormwater management. Stormwater point discharges to waters of the U.S. (pipes and drain pipes) are regulated using National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. In 1999, federal regulations extended coverage of the NPDES program to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Sys-



'Illicit Discharge' is the discharge of anything other than stormwater which flows directly or indirectly into the Township's storm sewer system. If you witness an illicit discharge, please call the Township at 215-949-9000 or submit your concern online.

tems (MS4) serving populations less than 100,000. Falls Township is an MS4 community and is required to comply with

PLEASE NOTE: Some stormwater facilities in the Township are private, including stormwater basins, swales, ponds, and similar facilities. This means the individual property owners or homeowners associations are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility. The Township does NOT maintain these private facilities. The Township does maintain the inlets and pipes within the public right-of-way.

the NPDES program. The Township is required to develop a stormwater management program that provides the details of how the community will comply with the requirements of the permit. Permits are based on a framework of six minimum control measures:

- **MCM 1** - Public education and outreach
- **MCM 2** - Public participation and involvement
- **MCM 3** - Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- **MCM 4** - Construction site runoff control
- **MCM 5** - Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
- **MCM 6** - Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance

More information on this program is available from the Pennsylvania DEP website. <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/default.aspx>

Check for Upcoming Waste Collection Dates

Falls Township will collect all yard waste, as well as leaves, at an upcoming date. Please check the Township website (www.fallstwp.com) or the Township Facebook page (<https://www.Facebook.com/fallstwp1/>) for those dates.

We will not accept yard waste with the regular trash.

Leaves **MUST** be bagged in 30-gallon biodegradable **PAPER BAGS** or placed in 30-gallon trash containers **WITHOUT LIDS**.

They are to be placed curbside by 6 a.m. on the designated collection day in the same location as your regular trash pickup. **LEAVES IN ANY OTHER CONTAINER WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.**

Christmas trees will also be collected at an upcoming date. This collection date will also be put on the Township website and Facebook page.

Trees will not be picked up with the regular trash.



Falls Township Police Chief William Wilcox stands next to the photos of 17 students from Pennsbury and The Pen Ryn School who took part in the, "Chief For the Day" program.

Students 'Top Cop' For a Day

For one day during the school year, elementary school students from Pennsbury and The Pen Ryn School get a first-hand look at life as the top cop through the police department's Chief for the Day program.

Falls Supervisor Chairman Bob Harvie said the governing body wholeheartedly welcomed the program, which began in 2017.

"This was not a hard decision for us to say 'absolutely,'" Harvie said.

Falls Township Police Chief William Wilcox recognized 17 fellow chiefs (for the day) during a Falls Township Supervisors meeting. Each of the six participating schools choose their respective chiefs. On the student's given day as chief, Wilcox takes the student to District Judge Jan Vislosky's court to be sworn in. Each takes an oath for the Falls Township Police department. From there, students receive an ID and lanyard and begin their day as chief.

Student chiefs have the opportunity to meet with lieutenants and answer questions.

"It necessitated them making decisions," Chief Wilcox said. "They made great decisions."

Perhaps the biggest was what to eat.

"They had their choice of whatever they wanted for lunch," Wilcox said.

As chief, students also have the opportunity to see the department's weaponry and gain a better understanding of fingerprinting and DNA. Kids also tour the processing room where prisoners are taken, get to see evidence and receive a tour around Falls Township.

The 2018 Chief for the Day participants were: Ty Decker, Juliana Massari, Nida Ayub, Max Whittle, Alaina Nagata, Ava Apelt, Kieran Shaw, Marcell Dzieniszewski, Grace Holmes, Angelina Hill, Chloe Salton, RJ Gore, Maddy Trunfio, Ali Capriotti, Fiona Bunnell, Aiden Anelauskas and Joe Beitler.



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Get involved: Become a Volunteer

Do you have extra time on your hands? Would you like to get more involved in the community?

Residents are welcome to volunteer to serve on one of the many boards and advisory bodies in Falls Township. If interested, please check the Township website for the most up-to-date openings. Letters of interest, noting preference for any of the openings, can be forwarded to: Falls Township, c/o Township Manager, 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100 Fairless Hills, PA 19030. You may fax the letter of interest to 215-949-9013 or email admin@fallstwp.org.

VOLUNTEER



Falls Continues “Live Here, Spend Here”



In an effort to promote existing Township businesses and encourage residents to spend more – or all – of their hard-earned money within Township borders, the Falls Township Board of Supervisors is continuing with its popular “Live Here, Spend Here” initiative. Spending in one’s hometown not only supports the local business community, but creates jobs, strengthens the local economy and helps lessen the need for municipal taxes.

“Live Here, Spend Here” was the brainchild of Supervisors Vice Chairman Jeffry Dence, who said he got the idea for the program while working in Burlington County, N.J. That community has a similar business promotion program and promotes it with a logo and stickers in local merchants’ windows.

Locally, two Falls Township businesses are featured each month in an article and photos posted on the Township’s Website: www.fallstwp.com/information-services/live-here-spend-here-campaign.aspx and shared on the Township’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fallstowshipmunicipalbuilding>.

If you know of a Falls Township business you would like to see spotlighted, contact Township Manager Peter Gray at p.gray@fallstwp.com or 215-949-9000.

Road Reconstruction Comes in Under Budget

The Falls Township Supervisors have set the wheels in motion for the full depth reconstruction of several roadways for less than the amount earmarked in the 2018 budget.

The Supervisors unanimously voted to award the 2018 road program to General Asphalt Paving Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,207,644.40 – which amounts to \$300,000 under budget.

The governing body had reserved \$2.5 million for the full depth road reconstruction of Share Drive, the remaining portion of Walton Drive and a section of Lions Drive between Share Drive and Walton Drive.

Work is expected to begin toward the end of August and continue through year’s end, according to Township Engineer Jim Sullivan.

The Supervisors remain committed to maintaining safe roadways through annual road improvement projects. Each year Falls officials designate roads for upgrades.



Falls Adopts Fireworks Ordinance

With an eye on protecting the public's safety, the Falls Township Supervisors adopted an ordinance to set guidelines for the use of fireworks.

Under the local law, which mirrors the state law enacted in 2017, Falls Township residents interested in setting off fireworks may be permitted to do so, provided that guidelines are met.

Smaller fireworks, or so-called consumer fireworks, including roman candles, bottle rockets and other aerial fireworks, are permitted by individuals 18 years and older. Fireworks can not be set off within 150 feet of any structure that has a valid use and occupancy permit.

"It doesn't mean 'well, my neighbor's not home, so it's not occupied,'" Supervisors Chairman Bob Harvie said.

Harvie said the Supervisors opted to adopt the ordinance now because the Township has received fireworks complaints.

"It's a safety concern," he said. "It's not about not having fun or trying to interfere with people's good times."

Particularly with houses being situated closer together, the risk for fire is greater. Novelty fireworks caught a house on fire last year and caused it to burn down, Supervisor Vice Chairman Jeff Dence said.

"It doesn't mean it's not dangerous," Dence said. "It means, use common sense."

The ordinance prohibits the discharge of fireworks in, near or toward a vehicle. Fireworks should not be set off by anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Each violation of the local ordinance incurs a \$100 fine.

"If someone shoots off six fireworks on someone's street that's \$600," Harvie said. "(The fine is for) every single thing you shoot off."

Larger fireworks displays are allowed only by permit from the fire marshal.

Citing the township's noise ordinance, Harvie said fireworks are permitted until 10 p.m. on weekdays or 11 p.m. on weekends.

Before setting off fireworks in a field or other vacant property, Harvie noted that permission from the property owner is a must.



Bulk Disposal Day Set For October 13

Mark your calendars for the next **FREE BULK DISPOSAL DAY**, which will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. This bulk disposal program is for resident homeowners of Falls Township and Tullytown Borough. Proof of residency is required. It is not intended for commercial customers or contractors.

WHERE: GROWS Landfill behind Waste Management's Turkey Hill Office

1000 New Ford Mill Road, Falls Township

DROP OFF: Bulky waste items, yard waste and appliances. For additional information please call Waste Management at **800-869-5566**.

PLEASE NOTE: The following materials cannot be accepted: liquids, oil, paint, car batteries, propane tanks, gas cylinders, hazardous household wastes, tires, chemicals,

pesticides and spray cans. No refrigerators, air conditioners or freezers. No electronics, including TVs, computer equipment, stereo equipment, or any other electrical item that plugs in or operates on batteries. Bucks County organizes household hazardous waste collections throughout the year. For further details on the household hazardous waste collections, please call **215-345-3400**.



Tips For Safe Snow Removal

While enjoying the winter wonderland, remember these tips to help Falls Township crews clear the roads more quickly and efficiently:

- Mailboxes should be installed in accordance with U.S. Postal Service standards. Mailboxes installed incorrectly and, as a result are struck by a Township plow during snow removal operations, will be the sole responsibility of the property owner to repair.

- Move your vehicles out of the street and into private driveways (this also reduces the amount of snow you have to shovel).

- During any snow emergency, all vehicles must be removed from roadways.

- Wait to shovel your driveway until

the plows have completed their final pass along the curb line or edge of pavement. A pass or two through the neighborhood does not mean the Township is finished with snow removal and your effort to clear your driveway entrance might be wasted.

- Shovel to the right-hand side of your driveway to reduce the amount of snow pushed back onto your driveways by plows.

- Clear your sidewalk by shoveling and salting within 24 hours of the last evidence of precipitation.

- Do not throw snow from any sidewalk or driveway into the roadway. Doing so is illegal, and you will be cited.

- Keep all receptacles (trash and recycling) on the sidewalk, not in the street.

- If you have an inlet in front of your property, please assist the Township in keeping it clear of snow and ice. This will prevent ice from accumulating and reduce drainage issues when snow begins to melt.

Please be patient during the snow removal process while the Township's plow operators work to clear roadways. We are here to get the roads open for travel as quickly as possible. Please remember we try to plow the roads from curb to curb to open the roadway as wide as possible. Some residents have no grass buffer between the curb and their sidewalks and snow is plowed onto the sidewalk area. This cannot be avoided. Snow is plowed to the shoulder of the roads to clear the travel areas.

Stay Warm and Safe this Winter

There's something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But, did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.

- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

- Never use your oven to heat your home.

- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions.

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

- Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have



a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

- Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immedi-

ately and call your local fire department or gas company.

Fact: Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February.

How to Prepare a Home Fire Escape Plan

Smoke detectors are provided and installed free of charge to residents of Falls Township. If you need smoke detectors, please call **215-949-9000, ext. 255** to schedule an appointment to have them installed. **SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!**

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.

- Visit each room. Find two ways out.

- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.

- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.

- Pick a meeting place outside. It

should be in front of your home.

- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.

- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.

- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.

- Practice your home fire drill!

- Make your own home fire escape plan.



Fast Facts From Waste Management...

...on Waste Removal

When should trash be placed at the curb?

Place trash and recyclables out after 6 p.m. the evening before your pickup day. Place containers so they are not blocked by parked vehicles.

What size containers should I use?

Household waste containers should be between 20 and 35 gallons and may not exceed 50 pounds in weight. Use up to 10 sturdy plastic or metal containers with handles and detachable lids. Recyclables should be placed in a recycle bin or can clearly marked as "Recyclables."

How do I dispose of leftover paint?

Evaporate latex paint by air-drying or mixing with kitty litter, shredded newspaper or other absorbent. Bag and put out with your regular trash.

Which wastes are not acceptable?

We do not accept liquid waste of any type, tree stumps or tires. We do not accept HHW of any type, including insecticides, pesticides, gasoline, waste oil, non-latex paints, varnish, thinners, drain cleaner, pool chemicals, car parts or similar materials as part of your regular waste removal services. Hold all Household Hazardous Waste materials for special HHW collection events.

...on Bulk Items

When are bulk items collected?

Larger items are collected on the second pickup day of the week, sometimes by a second crew.

What type of bulk items are collected?

Examples of regular bulk items include furniture, cabinets, washers and dryers.

How much can I discard at once?

The limit is one bulk item per week.

What about refrigerators?

Some items require an appointment, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers containing CFCs. To make an appointment, call **800-869-5566**.

...on Holiday Pickups

What if my pickup day falls on a holiday?

If a scheduled holiday (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day) falls on your regular pickup day, trash and recyclables will be collected on your next regular service day.

For more information, call **215-788-5555**.



Falls Township
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Fairless Hills, PA 19030

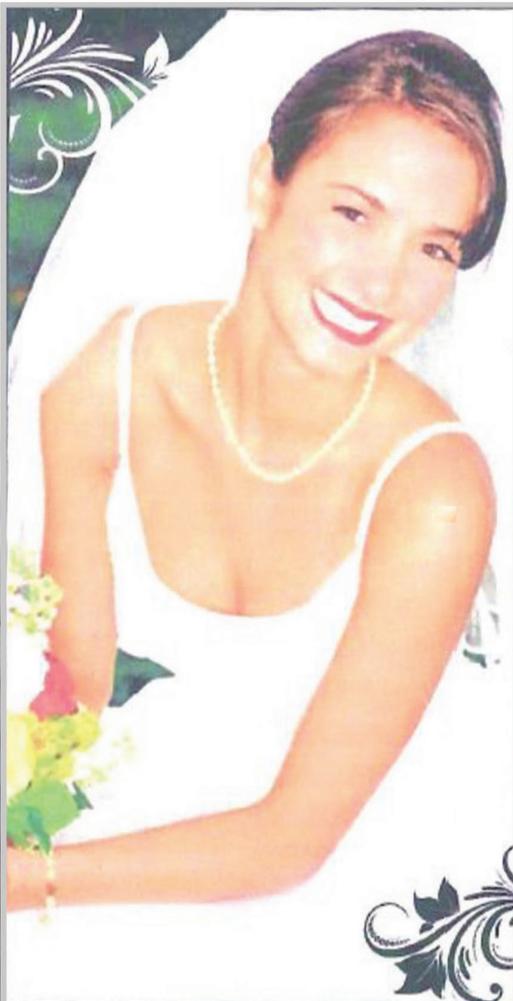
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Fall/Winter Newsletter 2018



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