



## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Residents of Douglass Township,

As we navigate through the year, the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors extends a warm welcome to all of our residents, businesses and visitors! We are excited to continue working together to make our community an even better place to live, work, and raise families.

This year, we remain committed to enhancing the quality of life in our township through responsible governance, careful planning, and collaboration with all of you. From improving local infrastructure to fostering a sense of community, we are focused on ensuring that Douglass Town-

ship remains a vibrant, safe, and thriving place for everyone.

In this year's newsletter, you'll find important updates on upcoming projects, events, and resources available to you. We encourage you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and participate in township activities. Your input is invaluable, and we look forward to another successful year of working together.

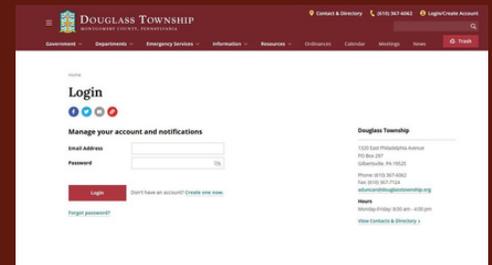
Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Here's to a bright and prosperous 2025 for all of Douglass Township!

Sincerely,  
The Douglass Township Board of Supervisors

## STAY INVOLVED, STAY INFORMED!

To stay up to date on all Douglass Township important information and news, create an account at [www.douglasstownship.org](http://www.douglasstownship.org). Select "Login/Create Account" in the upper right hand corner of the webpage to get started.

You can manage your account and the notifications that you receive when information is uploaded and shared on the Township website. This is a great way to be notified when information and updates are added.



The basin pictured above was installed at Douglass Park in 2024 to help manage stormwater issues. Public Works is planning to convert this basin to a rain garden like the existing one at the park to further improve water filtration and recharge capacity utilizing trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plantings.

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

As awareness increases around the delicate nature of our environment, it becomes increasingly important for every person to do their part to contribute to the health of our ecosystem. An important environmental component is stormwater management.

Next to Alaska, Pennsylvania has the most miles of streams and rivers in the United States. Effective stormwater management provides environmental, social, and economic benefits to local communities. When stormwater management is done well, streams, rivers, and lakes are cleaner; flood risks are reduced; costs due to flood damage decrease; and community quality of life increases.



2025 Township Newsletter

## **DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP** **PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

**DOUGLASS PARK** - 1320 E. Philadelphia Avenue Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525

**Amenities include:** Basketball Courts, Tennis and Pickleball Courts, Picnic Pavilions, Paved Walking Trails, Playgrounds and Swings, Soccer Fields and a Softball Field.

**SMITH ROAD PARK** - Corner of Congo Road and Smith Road

**Amenities Include:** Picnic Pavilion, Swings, Passive Open Space and Access to Minister Creek.

**CONGO ROAD PARK** - 475 Congo Road Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525

**Amenities Include:** Picnic Pavilion, Naturalized Walking Trails, Scout Encampment.

**COME SEE WHAT OUR PARKS HAVE TO OFFER!**

### **Permanently Preserved Passive Open Space**

**Moyer Open Space - 9.19 Acres**

1261 Congo Road Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525

**Keller Woods Open Space - 34.34 Acres**

131 Keller Road Barto, Pa. 19504

**Merkel Road Open Space - 11.64 Acres**

255 Merkel Road Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525



### **PICKLEBALL/TENNIS COURT RENOVATION COMPLETE**



Douglass Township completed the Tennis and Pickleball Courts construction Project at Douglass Park, transforming two existing tennis courts into **one tennis court and two pickleball courts**. In addition to the court renovations, the project installed important accessibility features including a new **ADA-compliant access route** to the courts to ensure all levels of mobility can enjoy the facilities.

This project would not have been possible without funding support from the following sources:

- **Douglass Township** - \$19,000
- **Montco 2040** - \$80,889
- **Pottstown Metro. Regional Planning** - \$25,000
- **Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation** - \$20,000
- **Donations** - \$30,000



## **COUNTY LINE ROAD BRIDGE CLOSED**

The Douglass Township Board of Supervisors closed the County Line Road Bridge on April 16, 2025 due to structural deficiencies and for the safety of the public.

A detour has been posted and it consists of a 1.7 mile route utilizing Swamp Creek Road, Montgomery Avenue and Route 100. Please plan your travel accordingly with these new traffic patterns.

The County Line Road bridge was originally constructed in 1939 and consists of a single span concrete structure with metal decking. The new proposed bridge will be a three piece prefabricated concrete structure that includes two twelve foot travel lanes and two four foot shoulders.

The new County Line Road Bridge is estimated to cost \$1,164,625.00 to construct and will take approximately 90 to 120 days to build.

This bridge project has been marked as a high priority by the Board of Supervisors. Township and Professional Staff have been working quickly to obtain the appropriate funding, State and Federal permits, and construction easements from all neighboring property owners to reduce the amount of time that this important infrastructure is closed to the public.

The Township will continue to provide updates at our regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meetings as this project continues to approach final approval and construction is scheduled.

## **DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION RETRO-REIMBURSEMENT GRANT RECEIVED**

Douglass Township has been successful in securing \$931,700.00 (80%) in grant funding for the full replacement of the County Line Road Bridge. The Township is currently in the process of applying for a DCED Multimodal grant in the amount of \$232,925.00 to cover the remaining 20% funding requirement for the bridge replacement project. The Multimodal grant awards will be announced in November 2025.





## **TAX COLLECTION**

### **Douglass Township Tax Collector**

**Rebecca Zern**  
76 Merkel Road  
Gilbertsville PA 19525  
(610) 367-5257  
rebeccaz@comcast.net

**The Douglass Township Tax Collector collects the following taxes:**

1. County, Township and School District **Real Estate** Taxes
2. Township and School District **Per Capita** Taxes
3. Township **Street Light Assessment** Tax

### **Douglass Township**

2.6 mills General Fund  
.5 mills EMS Services  
.4 mills Fire Protection  
**Total 3.5 mills**

### **Montgomery County**

5.252 mills General Fund  
.39 mills Community College  
**Total 5.642 mills**

### **Boyertown Area School District**

31.738 mills General Fund  
**Total 31.738 mills**

## **NEW RESIDENTS**

Please inform your employer of your new address and the **PSD code** (Political Subdivision code) for Douglass Township, Montgomery County (**060208**).

This will ensure your local taxes will be put to use in your new resident township.



### **Berks EIT Bureau**

1125 Berkshire Blvd  
Suite 115  
Wyomissing PA 19610  
Phone: (610) 372-8439  
Toll free: 1 (855) 372-8439  
**www.berkseit.com**

## **LOCAL EARNED INCOME TAX**

Under the Local Enabling Tax Act, all residents of Douglass Township are assessed a tax of 1% on their earned income. 1/2 of the 1% (0.5%) supports the Boyertown Area School District, and 1/2 of the 1% (0.5%) is general revenue for Douglass Township.

**Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau** collects the **Earned Income Tax** (EIT) and **Local Services Tax** (LST) for Douglass Township.



## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Public Works Department takes their role seriously in the community by providing the ongoing care and maintenance of municipal infrastructure and public facilities.

The **Douglass Township Public Works Facility** is located at **108 Municipal Drive** in Gilbertsville. Public Works operations, including requests for service, may be contact by telephone at **610-367-0984**.

The Township Public Works Department completes the maintenance of roadways and facilities with 6 full time personnel.

### **Maintenance responsibilities include:**

- Maintain and repair **73.08 miles** of roadways and bridges
- Township buildings, properties and facilities
- Fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment
- Community parks, walking trails and passive open space
- Storm sewer systems and pipes
- Streetlights, traffic signals and traffic signs
- Snowplowing and winter maintenance
- Roadside mowing within the ultimate right of way

## **2025 ROAD PROJECTS**

### **TAR AND CHIP** (base repair, tar/chip, fog seal)

**Hoffmansville Road**  
**Middle Creek Road**



### **BLACKTOP OVERLAY**

**Smith Road**  
**Fairway Circle**



## **REPORT A POTHOLE OR HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITION**

Potholes happen when water seeps into cracks in the pavement and expands as it freezes, breaking down the road surface over time. Temperature swings make the problem worse, leading to bigger cracks and rough roads.

### **Douglass Township**

Call: 610-367-0984

Submit online:

<https://www.douglasstownship.org/resources/request-for-services/>

### **PennDOT**

Call: 1-800-FIX-ROAD

Submit online:

<http://www.customercare.penndot.pa.gov/>







## **BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT**

We would like to inform all residents and contractors that Douglass Township utilizes a third-party inspection agency for building inspections and plan reviews. This allows us to ensure all construction projects comply with local building codes and safety standards.

**Fillable Permit Applications** can be found on the Douglass Township website.

All permit application submissions can be submitted in person to the Douglass Township Administration Building located at 1320 E. Philadelphia Avenue Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525 or electronically to our Building and Zoning Department.

## **BUILDING INSPECTIONS**

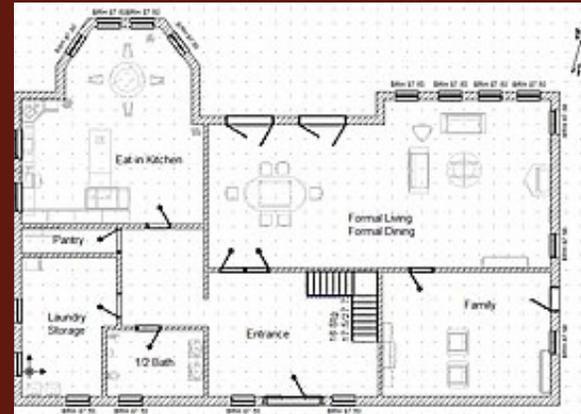
To schedule inspections, please contact the inspection agency directly.

### **KRAFT MUNICIPAL GROUP**

Inspection requests: 610-775-7185

Email: [contact@kraftmunicipalgroup.com](mailto:contact@kraftmunicipalgroup.com)

\*\*\*Please provide **48 hours notice** for inspection requests\*\*\*



## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND ZONING INFORMATION**

For general inquiries or for zoning information, please contact the **Douglass Township Administration Building** at **610-367-6062**, and *press the prompt* for **Building and Zoning Department**.

<https://www.douglasstownship.org/departments/building-zoning/>





## **2025 TROUT RODEO**

The Douglass Township Board of Supervisors and Recreation Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the annual trout rodeo held on the Mashintonio Farm on Saturday May 10, 2025.

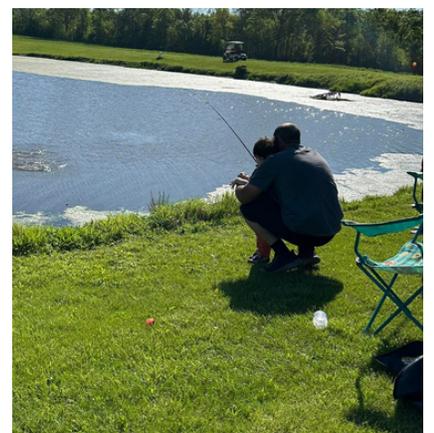
There were over 100 children in attendance for the morning session and our United States Military Veterans finished off the day with an afternoon session.

Thank you to Tony Mashintonio for offering your beautiful property for this event each year. We would also like to thank our sponsors for the event and all of the volunteers who made this day possible. Without your community support, this event would not be a success each year.



## **THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!**

A.D. Moyer Lumber – Lehigh Valley Health Network – Kraft Municipal Group  
Brant and Associates LLC – Gabelsville Athletic Association  
Friendship Hook and Ladder of Boyertown Social Club – Winners Circle Awards





## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **A Message from Chief Evans:**

*As we approach the end of June, I want to thank the residents of Douglass Township for their continued support of our Officers and our Police Department.*

*Your cooperation and trust are essential in keeping our neighborhoods safe, and together, as we continue to make our community a great place to live and raise a family.*

*Sincerely,*

*Chief Robert Evans*

### **Safety Tips:**

- **Scam Alert:** Be wary of phone scams and online phishing attempts. Never share personal information with unsolicited callers or senders. If you suspect a scam, contact the police department immediately.
- **Traffic Safety:** With the warmer weather and summer vacations, please be mindful of increased traffic volume and pedestrian activity. Obey all speed limits, cross walks and yield signs.
- **Distracted Driving:** The Police Department is seeing an alarming number of distracted driving accidents in our region. Please do not utilize handheld devices while operating a motor vehicle.

**Contact Us:** In the event of an emergency, please dial 911. For non-emergencies, we are always available to assist you. You can reach us at **610-367-0466** or visit our website at [www.douglasstownship.org/emergency-services/police](http://www.douglasstownship.org/emergency-services/police).

## **CHILD SEAT SAFETY CHECKS**

Did you know that the Douglass Township Police Department has a certified **child seat inspection technician** on staff? Officer Sedgwick is *available by appointment* to assist you with inspection and proper installation of your child safety seat. Please contact the Douglass Township Police Department at **610-367-0466 ext. 9135** to schedule your appointment today!



## **REMINDER TO LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS**

The Douglass Township Police Department is experiencing an *increase in vehicle break in complaints* within our community. With this growing trend, we remind you to lock your vehicle, take your keys and hide your belongings.

### **Lock your car**



Criminals check door handles at night. Make sure valuables are not kept in your vehicle and lock your doors.

### **Take your keys**



Never leave your keys in your vehicle and always lock your doors.

### **Hide your belongings**



Remove items of value from your vehicle.



[www.gilbertsvillefireandrescue.org](http://www.gilbertsvillefireandrescue.org)

## GILBERTSVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE 610-367-0277

On behalf of the men and women of **Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue**, we extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support and trust in the services that we provide. As a **100% volunteer** fire company, we rely on the support of our community to ensure we can continue to serve you in your times of need.

In 2024, our dedicated volunteers responded to **344 emergency dispatches**, from fires and medical emergencies to rescues and accidents. These incidents highlight the critical role that our membership plays in the safety and well-being of our community.

Every year, we rely on funds to *maintain and upgrade our equipment, provide training to our volunteers, and ensure we have the necessary resources to stay prepared for any emergency.* Your support ensures that we are ready to provide **24/7 emergency response**, every day of the year.

Being a 100% volunteer-based fire company means that no one on our team receives compensation for their service. *Every firefighter and contributing member gives their time and is committed to keep you and your family safe.*

However, the costs associated with running a fire company have increase significantly from maintaining or replacing apparatus to purchasing personal protective gear. Your donations ensure that we are always ready to protect you, your loved ones, and your property.

**We continue to seek new volunteers in our community!** *If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, please contact us at 610-367-0277. No experience is required and all equipment and training is provided at no cost to you. **Our members meet every Thursday evening beginning at 7:00PM.** Please stop in, take a look around, and ask questions about fire service. We look forward to meeting you!*



**Test your smoke and CO detectors every month!**



**We can't help you if we can't find you.**



**Working SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES**

## KNOX HOME BOX



### WHAT IS A KNOXBOX?

- A knoxbox is a secure way to lock a key to your home in a tamper proof box for emergency responders to access your home when residents are unable to open the door or are not present during an emergency.
- Knox boxes reduce forced entry damage, expensive repair costs and risk to emergency responders.

### WHO IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A KNOX BOX?

- Any residential home or commercial building with an automatic fire alarm or sprinkler system.



2025 Township Newsletter

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### Emergency Medical Services Tax Implemented

In 2023, you may have noticed a new line item on your tax bill labeled "Emerg Med Srvc". *This **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Tax** does not replace your annual ambulance subscription.*

The emergency medical services tax supplements the cost to operate and staff an advanced life support ambulance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within our municipal borders. Medical billing, Medicaid and Medicare are no longer covering the actual costs to provide ambulance service in the United States.

The Township has two primary response agencies that have first due coverage area in our community. Gilbertsville Area Community Ambulance Service and Bally Community Ambulance are the two provider agencies that proudly serve the residents of Douglass Township.

The result of not properly funding emergency medical services in our community would be the failure and loss of our local EMS agencies, longer response times and ultimately the loss of life.

## DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES



### BALLY AMBULANCE

Phone: [610-845-2501](tel:610-845-2501)

Fax: 610-845-7898

537 Chestnut Street

Bally, Pa. 19503

<https://ballyambulance.org>



### GILBERTSVILLE AREA COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE

Phone: [610-367-9191](tel:610-367-9191)

Fax: 610-369-3931

Email: [mail@medic332.org](mailto:mail@medic332.org)

91 Jackson Road

Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525

[www.medic332.org](http://www.medic332.org)





## **Douglass Township – Montgomery County**

**1320 E. Philadelphia Avenue, PO Box 297, Gilbertsville, Pa. 19525**

**Telephone: 610-367-6062 Fax: 610-367-7124**

**Website: www.douglasstownship.org**

### **Meetings**

**Board of Supervisors: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00PM**

**Planning Agency: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00PM**

### **Board of Supervisors**

**Joshua Z. Stouch – Chairman**  
**Sara Carpenter – Vice Chairman**  
**Donald Bergstresser – Supervisor**

### **Administrative Staff**

**Township Manager: Andrew A. Duncan**  
**Assistant Township Manager: David S. Thompson**  
**Township Secretary: Marcy Meitzler**  
**Township Treasurer: Cynthia O'Donnell**  
**Zoning Officer: David S. Thompson**  
**Roadmaster: Michael Heydt**  
**Recycling Coordinator: Mckenna Powanda**