



HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP REPORT



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Cable competition comes to Haycock!

After years of trying and waiting, cable competition has finally arrived in Haycock Township! At this time, as far as we know, Verizon FiOS is fully deployed in the 215 area code. The 610 area code in Haycock is not currently scheduled for deployment but with enough requests it is possible. If you are in the 610 area code and would like FiOS, please call Verizon and request it. The competition has already begun to benefit everyone as Service Electric Cable TV has started upgrading their system to offer HDTV, video on demand and two way high speed internet.

If you are in an area with FiOS availability but are not coming up as available with Verizon, please contact us and we will contact Verizon for you and have that addressed.

Census 2010 process underway

The important act of counting every resident in the United States is well underway! Required by the Constitution to be completed every ten years, the census is of significance to Haycock for many reasons, including funding for roads, fire protection, EMS funding and other funding needs, not to mention the importance of proper representation in Congress. You are required by law to complete the survey that is presented to you and your responses are confidential by law. The responses are used for statistical purposes only.

We work hand in hand with the Census Bureau so you can be assured that the people working as census takers are authorized individuals, provided they are carrying proper identification. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the census takers.

The questionnaire will be mailed to you in March 2010, if you do not get one, please contact us and we will be sure you get one. If you do not respond to the questionnaire, you will be visited by a census taker. Remember, it is required by law to answer the questionnaire! The 2010 questionnaire is a short one, ten questions or less.

The Census Bureau is starting to hire temporary workers, for more info visit www.census.gov or call 1-866-564-5420. They estimate needing 3 million temporary workers and want local people to work in their area.

Important Zoning Information

Important information regarding swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.

As you may know, inflatable/storable pools have become increasingly popular in recent years.

What you *may not know* is that Pennsylvania's U.C.C. Building Code defines a pool as "any

structure intended for recreational bathing that contains over 24 inches of water (including in-ground, above-ground, and on ground pool, hot tub, and spa). This means that ALL pools need to have a code compliant barrier with a fence and self closing, self latching gate as well as code compliant electrical wiring."

In addition, all pools require a zoning and a building permit.

A reminder that ANY structure requires at least a Zoning Permit, including free-standing structures such as metal and tarpaulin based carports and vinyl storage sheds.

Please contact the Zoning Officer if you have any questions.

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Household Hazardous Waste Program Dates:

- May 2 at the Lower Makefield Corporate Center
- June 20 at the Upper Bucks Vo-Tech School
- July 18 at the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology
- August 15 at the Bucks County Tech School
- September 26 at the Quakertown Community Pool

For more info visit their [website](#) or call 215-345-3400

Road work schedule

While no overlay projects are planned for 2009, there will be plenty of oil & chip sealcoat happening. The following roads are tentatively scheduled for sealcoating this year:

- East Thatcher Road
- Harrisburg School Road
- Indian Path Court
- Cedar Lane
- Roundhouse Road
- Haycock Run Road
- Church Lane

As always, the conditions of the roadways after winter may change these plans a bit but we hope to stay on track with these plans.

While it certainly has not been an overly snowy winter, there sure has been enough nuisance snow and ice to keep us busy! It takes at least the same amount of salt for each little nuisance storm we have as it does for a foot of snow. Ice storms can take considerably more yet. In a typical year we will use around 400 tons, so far this years we are near 600 with a bit of winter to go!

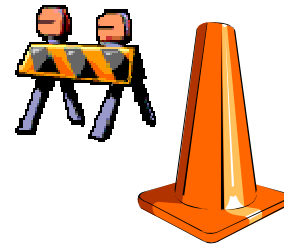
We will also be doing some crack sealing, ditch cleaning and asphalt work on some of the roads listed for sealcoating, so once spring arrives be aware of road work happening.

We will also be replacing some cross pipes on Woodbine Lane, Kinzler Lane and Creamery Road.

We will also be completing our third and final phase of the state

mandated replacement of our street name signs this year.

If you ever come across a tree down, pothole, or any other roadway issue, please contact us right away via telephone or email. If an emergency arises on a roadway after hours, you may contact the State Police at 215-249-9191 and they will investigate and call the proper authorities. If it requires immediate attention, such as a wire down, please call 9-1-1.



First township tax increase in 46 years

The last time Haycock Township Real Estate taxes increased, John F. Kennedy was President, no one had ever stepped foot on the moon, and the Super Bowl was not yet in existence.

The Board of Supervisors wrangled hard with the 2009 budget in the hopes that a tax increase could be avoided, but in the end the facts stood that this just would not be possible.

With higher costs for deicing salt, unpredictable fuel costs and an unfunded state mandate to update our Sewage Disposal Plan,

otherwise known as an Act 537 Plan, coupled with the reality that revenues were dropping, it was evident that trying to pass a budget without some sort of increase would be fiscally irresponsible.

While fuel costs have come down to manageable levels, the cost of deicing salt has increased dramatically in recent years. While we have seen less snow, we have seen more nuisance snow and ice events. This, along with increased traffic, has increased the amount of salt purchased in the past few years.

We also are being mandated by the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection to update our Act 537 Plan, which is a sewage disposal plan. This must be done in the next two years and is estimated to cost \$65,000. This was an unforeseen expenditure and was probably the biggest reason for needing to increase the tax rate.

While there are no guarantees in the current economy, we can guarantee that the Supervisors and staff will make every effort to hold the line on taxes in the future



We are often asked how property taxes are figured -

Take your assessment and multiply it by the millage rate, for example the township millage rate is 0.0025 or two and a half mills.

Recycling Update

The recycling center continues to be a great success, with around 250 tons being recycled with about 110 of those tons being collected right here at the drop-off center. The remainder was primarily picked up curbside by waste haulers.

We would like to remind everyone that the drop-off center is specifically for the use of Haycock Township residents only.

Also, the co-mingled container is for recyclable containers with a recyclable logo only. If there is no logo then it should not be in the bin. Soda and cereal boxes are generally made of thick paper and should be put in the mixed paper bin. Only corrugated cardboard should be put in the cardboard bin.

More info is available both on our website and the brochure available at the drop-off center.

The **Household Hazardous Waste Program** will continue in 2009. With 67 Haycock residents and 6,851 total utilizing the program, it was once again a success in 2008, at a cost of about \$35 per participant. The program is a joint venture between the Department of Environmental Protection, Bucks County and the local municipalities. For a quick overview of the program, click [HERE](#), or for a more detailed view, click [HERE](#).

Over 362 tons of waste were collected and properly disposed of!

Special thanks to all the volunteers from the various groups who assisted at the events, as well as the private sources that contributed to the effort.

Please visit [HERE](#) for the detailed report

ReadyNotifyPA debuts

Bucks County has implemented a new Community Alert System. With this new system, in an EMERGENCY the municipality will be able to ALERT a given area and notify everyone living there, via their phone.

This system is replacing the Community Alert Network (CAN) system.

Bucks County has on file, all listed and unlisted phone numbers. You can better manage this new system and receive additional Alerts for Road Closures, Weather Alerts, Crime Alerts, Amber Alerts and in the future, School Closings. You can tab on and select one or more municipalities that you would like to receive these alerts from. They can be sent to your home phone, cell, pager, Blackberry, computer or all of them. At any time you can change or update your account.

This is a secure site, the only information that can be accessed by the county or municipality is your name and email address. Log on the link at the bottom of the page to sign up for additional alerts. If you choose not to register you will still be notified by phone, if there is an emergency in your area.

Visit <https://bucks.alertpa.org/register.php> to sign up for this valuable free service.

Please forward the link to all of your friends who live in Bucks County.



For more information visit
www.haycocktwp.com/
readynotifypa.com

Community Events

Haycock Township Residents...come join your community on **June 20th** at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in Applebachsville for the **Joyful Noise 3 concert**. Join us from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. for a **free** outdoor concert with various bands throughout the day and ending with the nationally known band, **Ceili Rain**. There will be food to purchase, a classic car show, local artisans, children's activities and more! All proceeds from the day will be given to the Quakertown Food Pantry. So mark your calendars and we'll see you then!!

The **Haycock Fire Company** is holding **Breakfasts** in the following months: March, April, May, June, July, August, and October.

Easter Flower Sale is being held on April 10-12th and **Mother's Day Flower Sale** is May 8-10th.

Basket Bingo is May 3rd

There is **no Mothers Day Dinner** for 2009

Bikefest is being held on September 27th in Coopersburg.

Visit www.haycockfire.org for more information.

Haycock Historical Society is holding its Country Marketplace at the Haycock Firehouse - Sat, May 30

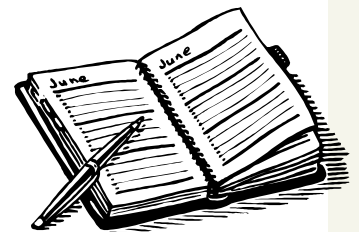
Residents, meet your neighbors, grab lunch, peruse the craft, antiques & flea tables,

Sit & listen to our GREAT Live Music! **NEW THIS YEAR - Antique Auto Display** all day, from 9-3

Horse & Carriage rides provided by Mountain Pride Farms through Applebachsville, from 10-2

Got good stuff to get rid of? Consider donating it (priced) for our White Elephant Table!

Or, if you need money, Rent a table and sell your things. Contact Janice for questions or to rent table space (\$20 inside/\$15.00 outside)



Mark your calendars and support your local community charities!



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Newsletter goes electronic!

Since you are reading this you are aware that the newsletter has gone electronic. This was done for a few reasons, one being economical, as it was not inexpensive to print and mail over a thousand copies. Second, we found a large number of subscribers to our monthly email newsletter said they would prefer to receive the annual newsletter electronically. We also will save a few trees by using way less paper!

We do realize that not everyone has access to a computer, so we will be printing small quantities in-house and have them available here at the municipal building and possibly in other public places, or by request we will mail copies out.

Hopefully you enjoy the new look and delivery method. Please feel free to give us your feedback via e-mail or telephone.

Join our monthly e-mail newsletter

With over 350 people signed up so far, it is safe to say that the monthly e-mail newsletter has been a well received idea. Implemented in the Summer of 2006 as a way to get information out to interested parties in between the annual newsletter, it brings you information on upcoming meetings, community events, updates on things like DSL and FiOS, etc.

The e-mail is generally sent out at the end of the month, but occasionally will be skipped if there is no news to report. On rare occasions we will send out quick notices at other times, such as when there were robberies in the area. This is only done when absolutely necessary as to respect your privacy as much as possible. All of the newsletters are archived on our website under the "Newsletter" tab. Also in that tab is the link to the form to sign up for the newsletter. We promise to never disclose your email address to anyone, ever!



Nearly 6,200 acres in Haycock Township have been preserved using various programs

Haycock nears 50% protected space

With the recent offer agreement on the Horne farm on Creamery Road, Haycock Township will reach just over 670 acres in conservation easements. These, along with various other land that is protected, brings us to a total of almost 6,181 acres protected. With a total land area of 12,620 acres in Haycock, this means over 48% of our Township is now protected!

Some facts about the open space:

Nockamixon State Park — 2,358 acres
State Game Lands — 2,184 acres
Lake Towhee County Park — 578 acres
Agriculture Easements — 124 acres
Natural Areas Easements — 371 acres
Ag Easements -offer accepted — 122 acres
Ag Easements - offer tendered — 131 acres

An additional 570 acres have been evaluated for future preservation.

We are currently updating our Open Space Plan in order to be able to utilize the municipal share of the Open Space bond.

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the Grim family for their generous donation of the conservation easement on their 21 acre property on Old Bethlehem Road.

If anyone has interest in preserving their land, or if you have questions about the program, please contact Supervisor Henry DePue at hdepue@haycocktownship.com.