

# East Cocalico Township

January 2019 Newsletter, Volume 34, Issue 1

## WOODY WASTE SITE CHANGES



The Board of Supervisors appreciates the excellent recycling efforts by our residents of their woody waste.

Unfortunately, there have been many incidences of illegal dumping that has occurred at the waste area and extensive use by non-residents when it's not permitted. The Township is responsible for all costs associated with the site to include chipping the woody waste and disposing of all items illegally dumped.

In hopes to eliminate illegal dumping and use by non-residents at the Woody Waste Site, the Supervisors approved the area to be secured by a access gate with a card system. Residents who purchased a Woody Waste card will have access the site. This site is for residential use only.



The gate card system will be operational on Monday, March 4, 2019. Cards can be purchased for \$15 per year, per household, at the Township Municipal Building, 100 Hill Road, Denver. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30 pm.

*Best wishes for a happy new year!*



100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517

Phone: 717-336-1720 Fax: 717-336-1724

Website: [www.eastcocalicotownship.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com)

E-Mail: [Township@eastcocalicotownship.com](mailto:Township@eastcocalicotownship.com)

## **ATTENTION**

### **ALL PROPERTY OWNERS AND**

### **BUSINESSES IN EAST COCALICO TWP**

Beginning in the 2019 tax year East Cocalico Township will have a new Tax Collector. Please be aware that, if you computerize the payment of your Real Estate taxes, or if you are a business that employs a payroll company to make payment on your behalf for Local Services Taxes, you must change (or inform your payroll company to change) the payee for those taxes, beginning with **2019** real estate and **2019** Local Services payments. Payments should no longer be sent to Joan Fischer, who will be retiring on January 31, 2019.

Beginning in the 2019 calendar year, Real Estate and Local Services Tax payments should be made payable to **East Cocalico Township** and mailed to:

**Tax Collector, East Cocalico Township**

**100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517**

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# TAX COLLECTOR SAYS GOODBYE

This will be my last article in the township newsletter, since I will be retiring at the end of this year. After having served as Tax Collector for thirty-five years, I somehow cannot walk away without saying a genuinely fond goodbye.

Back in 1983, I was serving as Township Auditor when the township Tax Collector moved out of the township and I was asked to apply to take over that position. I was initially hesitant to do so, believing that such a position would surely involve dealing with a public that would tend to 'blame the Tax Collector' for whatever their grievances might be regarding taxes (too high, too unfair, too arbitrary, too unnecessary, and the like), and therefore any Tax Collector would have to be prepared for angry, and occasionally unreasonable, interactions with township residents. Tax Collectors during Biblical times were considered by most people to be thieves and extortionists ... which, considering the lengths to which they were allowed to collect monies for both the government, and often allowed skim off the top for themselves, is not too far a definitional stretch ... and I believed that, to a very small extent, even the modern position of Tax Collector still carries with it a bit of a stigma. So I did not want to be perceived as a 'pay or else' heavy-handed public official.

That notion simply proves how unrealistic a generalized perception can often be.

In the thirty-five years that I have been serving in this position, I have rarely (actually almost never) had occasion to have a resident come into my office 'hot under the collar' because of some aspect of his or her taxation, without our being able to resolve the problem amicably.

Upon explanation of the taxation process, or occasional referral to Lancaster County or our state congressional representative for additional clarification, residents understand, and accept with cordiality, the process by which they are taxed, even though they sometimes believe that process to be unfair or inequitable.

*When I close the door of my office at 100 Hill Road for the last time, it will be with a mixture of fondness for a job I thoroughly enjoyed performing, fondness for the thousands of people with whom I transacted business and shared thoughts, and sadness at closing a chapter of my life that has been extraordinarily fulfilling and personally rewarding.*

*I wish my successor all the best, and I know that she will find the position of Tax Collector in this township, and working with its good people, to be equally rewarding.*

It has been a *genuine privilege* to serve the people of East Cocalico Township. The residents of this township take pride in paying their taxes on time: well over ninety percent of them make remittance during the early two-percent discount period, and only approximately one percent of accounts must be turned over for collection. Over the years, those who have difficulty paying on time have been more than willing to listen to suggestions on budgeting, prioritizing, etc. and have been appreciative of such advice. Without real exception, residents are willing to listen to reason, even when they may believe that portions of taxation are unfair, and they are

open and candid, without being disagreeable, about any perceived dissatisfaction with the tax system.

I have also been privileged to talk at length with hundreds of residents, about tax matters and some of their more personal matters, when they have been in my office to remit their payments. The fascinating subject matter has covered a wide spectrum of discussion, from wonderful charitable pursuits in which they are taking part, to health difficulties they may be experiencing, to fascinating recollections about their Vietnam, Korean or World War II experiences, to interesting aspects of their business dealings, to pride that they are feeling in their families' or children's accomplishments, and the like. Listening to such interesting personal stories and recollections has proved to be an integral and wonderful aspect of serving in my position... sometimes even a learning experience... and one that holds a treasured place in my memories of these past few decades of serving in township government. Many are indelible memories that will never be forgotten.

I have also greatly appreciated the confidence that the leadership in this township has always placed in me. I have worked, virtually unsupervised, for my entire nine terms in office, and, when I have made recommendations or suggestions regarding how tax-related aspects of township government could better be handled, they have always been received, reviewed, and often acted upon, with dignity and respect.

*Joan Fischer*

*1983-2018 Tax Collector*

*Thank  
you*

# TAX COLLECTOR SAYS HELLO

*Welcome!*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Sue Nielsen. It is my privilege to have been appointed to the office of Tax Collector for the next year. I will be serving out the term of dear Mrs. Joan Fischer who has held the position for over 35 years. I know you will all agree that she has given her best to serve us all over those many years, and we all wish her well in her retirement.

I will try to do my best to fulfill the responsibilities of this office. I think my back-ground in business for 45 years suits me well to carry out the duties of this position.

The township is also launching a new software in the collections office which is hopefully going to make it easier to access your records and help to make my office more efficient. Of course, with any new type of software, it may have some glitches. Been there, done that! Please be patient with us.

I will be available for walk-in collections at the following hours: Mondays 1-4pm, Wednesdays 9am-12 Noon, and Fridays 3-6pm

After April of 2019, my hours will be limited to the above hours on Mondays and Fridays. If you have an issue with any of these hours, I will be happy to be available to meet you by appointment.

I look forward to serving the community in which I have lived for the last 18 years. If you have any questions for me, please call the township office at 717-336-1721.

Wishing you all the very best in the New Year.

*Sue Nielsen*

**Address:** 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517

**Phone:** 717-336-1721

**Website:** [www.eastcocalicotownship.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com)

**E-mail:** [tax\\_collector@eastcocalicotownship.com](mailto:tax_collector@eastcocalicotownship.com)

## YOUR LOCAL FIRE COMPANY

### SMOKESTOWN FIRE COMPANY NEWS

860 Smokestown Road, Denver, PA USA 17517 Phone: 717-336-3311

E-mail: [smokestn@ptd.net](mailto:smokestn@ptd.net) Website: [www.smokestownfire.com/](http://www.smokestownfire.com/)

- Card parties are the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from October thru April. Doors open at 6:30pm and game starts at 7:00pm.
- On Tuesday, August 28, 2018 the new pumper tanker was in service as engine 17-2. We thank the community for their support.
- The fire hall is available for rent.
- We are looking for volunteers not just firefighters but support personnel as well including some tech support. Training nights are Tuesdays at 7pm. Monthly business meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month starting at 7:30pm.



### STEVENS FIRE COMPANY NEWS

91 Stevens Road, Stevens, PA 17578

Phone: 717-336-4200

E-Mail: visit website to fill in form

Website: [www.stevensfire.org](http://www.stevensfire.org)

Located at the Stevens Fire Company, a helicopter pad dedication took place on November 10, 2018.

This new addition to a Lancaster County fire company could help save lives.

Life Lion, a medical helicopter owned by Penn State Health, flew in for the dedication and hosted a safety demonstration.



### REAMSTOWN FIRE COMPANY NEWS

12 W Church St Reamstown, PA 17567 Phone: 717.336.3958

E-mail: [ReamstownFireCompany@gmail.com](mailto:ReamstownFireCompany@gmail.com)

Website: [www.reamstownfirecompany.com](http://www.reamstownfirecompany.com)

### REAMSTOWN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

12 W Church St Reamstown, PA 17567 Phone: 717-336-3958

E-mail: [info@ambulancebillingoffice.com](mailto:info@ambulancebillingoffice.com)

Website: [www.reamstownfirecompany.com/ambulance](http://www.reamstownfirecompany.com/ambulance)

# DO YOU KNOW?

## SNOW CLEARING TIPS

Residents are asked to remove vehicles from the street when a snowstorm is occurring. It makes plowing safer and more efficient if plow drivers do not have to operate around parked vehicles.

## ICE AND SNOW

Ice and snow must be cleared from sidewalks within 24 hrs. after a storm. The pathway should be at least 24 in. Also, please keep the fire hydrants cleared of ice or snow.

## BE NOTICED!

For added visibility, a house number sign is highly recommended by your Emergency Services staff so they can find your house quickly in an emergency. You can order through your local fire company.

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## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

A designated area is located behind the Township building (100 Hill Road, Denver); trees are accepted until Jan. 31st. Please remove all decorations and plastic bag when used for transportation.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS** Can be viewed on YouTube



Visit YouTube at [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)

Type in the "search" box: East Cocalico Township Board of Supervisor Meeting.

## TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

View this and other newsletters in color on the Township website, and notice the links are fully activated!

## GIFT



A smoke detector makes a great gift.

## FIRE & AMBULANCE

Support your local Fire Company and Ambulance Association.  
Donate! Volunteer!

## LIFEGUARD APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Reamstown Pool will be accepted during the months of Dec. through Feb. Applications can be picked up at the Township Office, 100 Hill Road, or print from: [www.eastcocalicotownship.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com) *NOTE: Those under 18 yrs. of age will need working permits. See your High School Office.*

## STREET LIGHT NOT WORKING?

Have you noticed a street light not working? If so, please write down the two numbers located on the pole (for example: 46544 and S33296), note the nearest address, and report this information to PP&L at 1-800-342-5775 or call the Township at 717-336-1720 and we will report it for you.

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST

*Think Spring!*



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Promoted to corporal were four East Cocalico Police Officers. Left to right are: Steve Savage, Dave Fisher, Gail Sizer and Josh Sola. The officers were officially recognized at 12/20/2018 Board of Supervisors Meeting. (Photo by Alice Hummer)

HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED  
 HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

- Have a CDL but not working?
- Want to earn some extra income?
- Become an on-call snow plow driver!



If this interests you, then we are interested in you!  
 Please fill out an employment application on-line at [www.eastcocalicotownship.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com) or pick one up at the Municipal Office, 100 Hill Road, Denver.

## FAQ RECYCLE RIGHT!

### Why the guidelines changed for curbside recycling?

Curbside recycling is facing a contamination crisis. Contamination is caused when people place materials in the recycling bin that do not belong. Recycling processors have a difficult time sorting out the trash, which makes its way into the sorted/bailed material that is sold to market. For a long time, China was the largest buyer of this material from the U.S. And because of increasing contamination levels, China made the decision to stop importing this material. This left the U.S. with an overabundance of recyclable commodities (re: bailed material) with a lot of trash mixed in.

To address the contamination issue in Lancaster County, and ensure curbside recycling is sustainable, we went "back to the basics" with four material types that have a strong domestic market, we call these materials the "Big 4" and include: 1) corrugated cardboard (like shipping and packing boxes), 2) metal food and beverage cans, 3) plastic bottles and jugs with a neck, and 4) glass bottles and jars.

### If something has the recycling symbol on it, does that mean it can go in my bin?

No. The "chasing arrows" symbol is simply a communication tool used by manufacturers. Sometimes it means a manufacturer used recycled material in the product. Other times it shares information about how the product is made. Follow the Big 4 guidelines only when deciding whether something should be placed in your curbside bin.

### Where can I take items that are recyclable but shouldn't go in my curbside bin?

Some items, like newspaper, cereal boxes, and plastic bags, can be recycled but should not go in your curbside recycling bin. If you think something could be recycled, please visit [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) to verify if there is a drop-off location near you. If you aren't sure, please discard the item in your trash.

### Why can't I put newspapers in my curbside bin?

1 in 5 Lancaster County homes are powered by trash!

In Lancaster County, we use a process called "single-stream" recycling, where residents can put all their approved recyclables into one bin. These materials are collected and taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF) where they are sorted, bailed, and sold to market. Unfortunately, when newspapers are mixed with other products, they often become wet or contaminated with food residue, which makes them no longer valuable. Search [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) for a location near you.

## ATTENTION AREA BUSINESSES

### RECYCLING FORMS TO BE MAILED TO AREA BUSINESSES

As done annually, the recycling forms will be mailed to the Township's area businesses in late December to mid-January 2019. These forms are generated by the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) for the purpose of logging your recycling efforts for the past year.

Please call the Township if your business has not received a form by the first week in February 2019.

Article provided by Lanc. County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA)

# The Importance of Stormwater Management

## Streambank Maintenance / Riparian Buffers

## MS4 AT A GLANCE

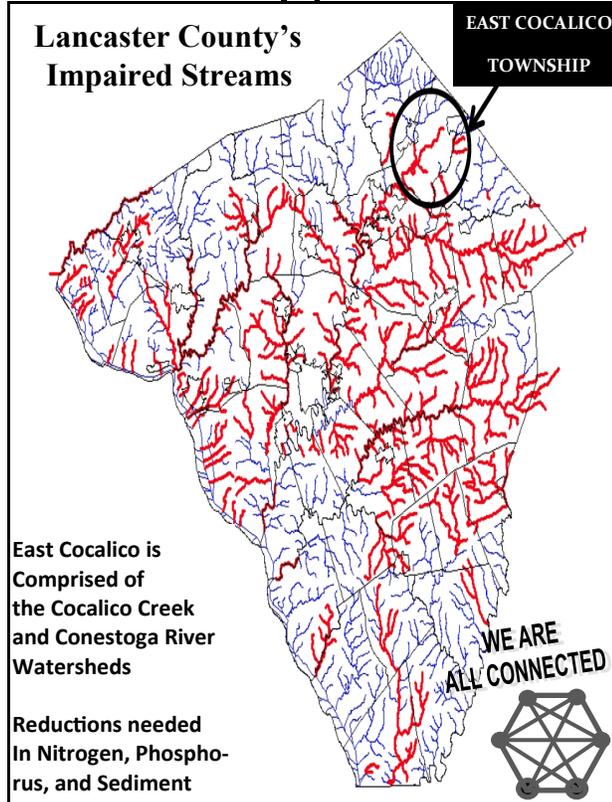
**Quality water starts with you!**

The Township adopted the “East Cocalico Stormwater Management and Earth Disturbance Ordinance” as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to support the on-going goals of properly managing runoff and improving water quality. The general purpose of the Ordinance is to control and minimize stormwater runoff impacts resulting from development and existing properties. The ordinance requires stormwater runoff from new site development to be infiltrated and detained on-site in an effort to replenish groundwater aquifers, improve water quality, maintain natural stream conditions, preserve riparian buffer areas, and regulate the peak stormwater discharges from the development site. With limited exceptions, the Ordinance applies to all residential, commercial, and industrial development, including homes, barns, and home additions.

It is very important to properly maintain the riparian buffer zones in the Township, as they act as filters to all creeks and streams. Healthy forest buffers feed streams with organic matter, which in turn rejuvenates the stream. There is three to five times more biological activity in a stream with a healthy forest buffer. The goal is to reduce sediment, phosphorous, and nitrogen content in streams. The creeks and streams are the capillaries to our watershed. Riparian is defined as pertaining to a stream, river or other watercourse and also plant communities occurring in association with any spring, lake, river, stream, or creek, through which water flow at least periodically. A Riparian Buffer is defined as a best management practice that is an area of permanent vegetation along a water course.

While potential stormwater impacts from large scale developments are obvious to most people, the cumulative impacts from small projects such as newly constructed single-family homes, barns, or home additions may not be as obvious. These small scale projects can create significant problems to adjacent or downstream properties.

### Lancaster County's Impaired Streams



The stormwater requirements of the federal Clean Water Act are administered under the **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's** Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Program. In December 2002, DEP issued a new permit General Permit (“PAG-13”) for use by MS4s, including East Cocalico Township, requiring the implementation of a stormwater management program for minimizing the impacts from stormwater runoff. After much debate and some delays, DEP released its new permit requirements in late 2018 for the next five years placing significant additional responsibilities onto the Township.

Under the MS4 Program, East Cocalico is required to incorporate the following six elements (known as minimum control measures, or MCMs) into their stormwater management programs:

- Public education and outreach (MCM #1)
- Public involvement and participation (MCM #2)
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination (MCM #3)
- Construction site runoff control (Administered by the Lancaster County Conservation District) (MCM #4)
- Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment (MCM #5)
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance (MCM #6)

Each MCM has a series of suggested best management practices (BMPs) associated with it to guide permit holders in program development, tracking, enforcement and reporting.

Under MCM #6, the Township is responsible for reducing by 10% sediment entering streams within our MS4 area. The Township is mandated by the State to perform over \$500,000 in stormwater projects over the next 5 years to hit the sediment removal target. This is an unfunded mandate that must be paid for by the Township.

Pennsylvania has close to 1,000 jurisdictions that are considered small municipal separate stormwater systems (MS4s) and therefore require MS4 permits.

# WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY

102 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517

P: 717-336-1731

F: 717-336-1735

E: [water@ecocalicotwpauth.com](mailto:water@ecocalicotwpauth.com)

W: [www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com)

## ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Much as we might want to think otherwise, cold weather is on its way. The East Cocalico Township Authority wants to remind you of some things you can do to prevent pipes in your home or business from freezing. Water leaks from frozen pipes can cause a great deal of damage to your property in addition to the expense associated with increased water bills. Be prepared for winter weather by ensuring that outside taps are turned off and hoses disconnected so they do not become vulnerable to freezing. Also insulate any water pipes that are in unheated areas of your home or business. If you have specific questions or concerns, we suggest you contact a plumber of your choice to evaluate your situation.

While we are on the topic of cold weather, this is normally the time of year the Authority experiences more breaks in our water lines. The Authority makes every effort to keep our water lines in good repair in order to provide our customers with uninterrupted service. Unfortunately, repeated freezing and thawing cycles during the winter will sometimes cause the ground around the pipes to shift resulting in breaks and loss of water service. If you see water coming to the surface or standing in the street or experience a sudden decrease in water pressure at your home or business, please report it to us as soon as possible. Call us at (717) 336-1731 and we will promptly investigate the problem.



## WHERE'S THE FIRE HYDRANT?

The Authority currently maintains 331 fire hydrants throughout the Township. On a regular basis we paint, repair, and flush hydrants in order to make sure they are working as intended and ready to provide water in case of an emergency. Flushing hydrants also helps maintain the water quality throughout the public water system. As we move into the winter months we would like to encourage residents living near a fire hydrant to help us keep those hydrants accessible by removing any accumulated snow that may block or hide them. With the large number of hydrants we maintain it can take some time after a snow storm before our employees can inspect all of them. When clearing hydrants, snow should be removed a minimum of three feet completely around the hydrant in order to provide the fire company with unobstructed access. Please assist us wherever you can. Your neighborhood and fire company will benefit from hydrants that are readily visible and easily accessible.

## secure payment options

### ***WE NOW ACCEPT AMERICAN EXPRESS!***

The East Cocalico Township Authority has a number of options customers can use to pay their water and sewer bills:

- Cash (*not through the mail, please*)
- Check or Money Order
- MasterCard, Visa Card, Discover Card, American Express (*service fee will apply*)
- Electronic Check Payment (*online only; service fee will apply*)

Payments by credit card can be made online or by calling our office at (717) 336-1731, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

For your convenience, a drop box is located to the right of the front door at the Township building on Hill Road for bill payments by cash, check, or money order after business hours or on weekends and Holidays.

More information about payment options and service fees can be found on our website at

[www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com).

Click on the "Pay Your Water/Sewer Bill" link to get started.



# EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP

100 HILL ROAD

DENVER, PA 17517

PR SRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DENVER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 35

**EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP OFFICE** 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517. Hours M-F 8am to 4:30pm. P: 717-336-1720 F: 717-336-1724

W: [www.eastcocalicotownship.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com)

E: [township@eastcocalicotownship.com](mailto:township@eastcocalicotownship.com)

**EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP POLICE** 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517. Hours M-F 8am to 4pm **EMERG: 911** P: 717-336-1725 F: 717-336-1737

W: [www.eastcocalicopolice.com](http://www.eastcocalicopolice.com)

**WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY OFFICE** 102 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517. Hours M-F 8am to 4:30pm. P: 717-336-1731 F: 717-336-1735

W: [www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com)

E: [water@ecocalicotwpauth.com](mailto:water@ecocalicotwpauth.com)

**REAMSTOWN FIRE COMPANY** 12 W Church St, Reamstown 17567 P: 717-336-3958 W: [www.reastownfirecompany.com](http://www.reastownfirecompany.com)

**SMOKESTOWN FIRE COMPANY** 860 Smokestown Rd, Denver 17517 P: 717-336-3311 W: [www.smokestownfire.com](http://www.smokestownfire.com)

**STEVENS FIRE COMPANY** 91 Stevens Rd, Denver 17517 P: 717-336-4200 W: [www.stevensfire.net](http://www.stevensfire.net)

**REAMSTOWN POOL** 68 Ream Road, Stevens, PA 17578 P: 717-336-3537 (only in operation when the pool is open)

**TAX COLLECTOR** call 717-336-1721, visit website [www.eastcocalicotownship.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com), or e-mail [tax\\_collector@eastcocalicotownship.com](mailto:tax_collector@eastcocalicotownship.com)

**ZONING OFFICER** Tony Luongo, 100 Hill Rd, Denver, PA 17517 M-F 8am to 4:30pm 717-336-1720(call ahead) W: [www.eastcocalicotownship.com/Zoning](http://www.eastcocalicotownship.com/Zoning)

E: [zoning\\_officer@eastcocalicotownship.com](mailto:zoning_officer@eastcocalicotownship.com)



## EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP 2019 MEETING DATES

Unless otherwise noted, all of the meetings are held at: East Cocalico Township, 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517

MONTH	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS		PLANNING COMMISSION	PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP	ZONING HEARING BOARD	RECREATION BOARD	WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
	9:00 AM	7:00 PM					
JANUARY		7*, 24	28	23	9	15	10
FEBRUARY	7	21	25	20	13	12	14
MARCH		7**, 21	25	20	13	12	14
APRIL	4	NONE	29	24	10	9	11
MAY		2, 16	20	15	8	14	9
JUNE		6***, 20	24	19	12	11	13
JULY	NONE	18	29	24	10	9	11
AUGUST	1	15	26	21	14	13	8
SEPTEMBER		5***, 19	30	25	11	10	12
OCTOBER	3	17	28	23	9	8	10
NOVEMBER		7, 21	18	NONE	13	12	14
DECEMBER		5, 19	16	NONE	11	10	12

\*January 7th: Held on a Monday @ 7:30pm for the Organization Meeting.

\*\*March 7th: Held at the Stevens Fire Hall, 91 Stevens Road, Stevens.

\*\*\*June 6th: Held at the Reamstown Fire Hall, 12 West Church Street, Reamstown.

\*\*\*\*September 5th: Held at the Smokestown Fire Hall, 860 Smokestown Rd., Denver.

Lisa A. Kashner, Newsletter Editor  
Comments and suggestions welcomed!