

# East Cocalico Township

100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517

(717) 336-1720

[ECT.Town](mailto:ECT.Town)

[Twp@ECT.Town](mailto:Twp@ECT.Town)



*Community First!*

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 38 ISSUE 3

**To you and your family, we extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a happy new year!**



## CHRISTMAS TREE DROP OFF

Christmas trees can be dropped off behind the Township Building, 100 Hill Road, from 12/26/2023 thru 1/31/2024 dawn to dusk. A designated area will be marked off. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

## PENNDOT PREPARES FOR WINTER AMID SHORTAGE OF CDL DRIVERS

There's a chill in the air with CDL driver shortages. With winter closing in, the [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation](#) is putting out the call for plow drivers. See their [website](#) for more information. Drive with care this winter season!



## LOOKING TO LEND A HAND?

Interested in serving on one of the Township's committees or boards? If so, please send a letter of interest, and a resume to include any relevant experience to: East Cocalico Township, 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517 or by e-mail to [Twp@ECT.Town](mailto:Twp@ECT.Town)



## REAMSTOWN SWIMMING POOL

A big "thank you" to everyone for a fun and incident-free summer. We hope you were able to create some 'warm' memories to hold you over in the upcoming cold winter months.

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## THE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTERS ARE ON-LINE

View this and past newsletters on the Township website, links are fully activated!

[ECT.Town](http://ECT.Town)

FYI

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Visit the Township website for recent Township news, agendas, approved meeting minutes, live Zoom Supervisor Meetings, past meetings via YouTube, tax information, voting information, Water & Sewer Authority, building permit applications, subdivision applications, ordinances and resolutions, recycling information, trash haulers within the Township, on-lot sewer, plus a lot more!

**ECT.Town**

### ATTENTION TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES: RECYCLING FORMS TO BE SENT

As done annually, recycling forms will be mailed to Township area businesses in late December 2023 to early February 2024. The forms are generated from Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority for the purpose of logging the recycling efforts of your business during the past year. Please call the Township if your business has not received a form by late February 2024.

### HOW LONG 'TIL IT'S GONE?

An estimated decomposition rate:

- Plastic grocery bags, 1-20 yrs.
- Disposable diapers, plastic bottles, 450 yrs.
- Aluminum cans, 200 yrs.
- Paper towels, 2-4 wks.
- Newspapers, 6 wks.
- Cotton ropes, 1-5 mo.
- Apple cores, 2 mo.
- Cardboard boxes, 2
- Waxed milk cartons, 3 mo.
- Plywood, 1-3 yrs.
- Wool socks, 1-5 yrs.



### KEEP ALL BATTERIES OUT OF THE TRASH AND RECYCLING!

**We need the community's help!** Rechargeable batteries containing metals such as lithium and nickel can spark and explode when damaged. Fires in garbage trucks and at processing facilities are on the rise. Help protect our employees, garbage collectors, property, and community.

#### Here's what to do:

- **Alkaline Batteries (single-use: AA, AAA, C, D):** Collect in a storage bag. Once full, time for disposal. Although not a fire risk, LCSWMA will properly dispose of alkaline batteries.
- **Rechargeable Batteries:** Don't store end-of-life batteries. Dispose of immediately.

#### FREE, Proper Disposal (Lancaster County Residents):

- Bring batteries and cellphones to LCSWMA's QUICK, CONVENIENT, DRIVE-THRU Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 1299 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA, 17603 – Mon–Fri 7am–4pm; Sat. 7am–11am.
  - Ask your trash collector if they take filled battery bags. If so, place on curb **BESIDE** trash. Bags are brought to LCSWMA. Battery bags are available at the East Cocalico Township lobby area free to residents.
  - To find battery drop-off locations near you, visit [Call2Recycle.org/locator](http://Call2Recycle.org/locator)
- Participating retail collections points include: Home Depot, Lowes & Staples.

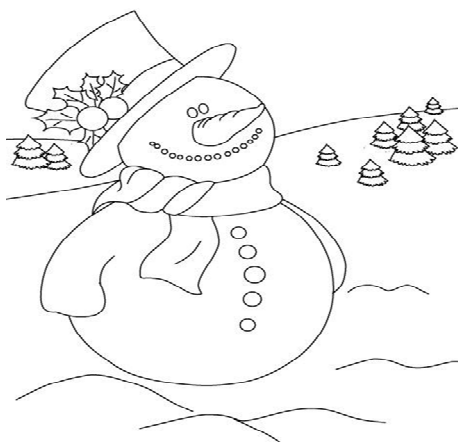
For more information visit: [SafeBatteryDisposal.com](http://SafeBatteryDisposal.com)

Rechargeable batteries are found in many common household items including:

- Power Tools
- Toys
- Cell phones
- Laptops
- Watches
- Remote Controls
- Gaming Devices
- Electric Toothbrushes
- E-cigarettes & Vape Devices



CAN YOU FIND THE  
DIFFERENCES IN THE SNOWMEN?  
THERE ARE 10 DIFFERENCES



## Active Subdivisions & Land Developments

*The following projects are now under review:*

- **Crossings at Cocalico** - A subdivision that includes 52 single-family detached dwellings, 56 attached dwellings, and 64 multi-family units, at Swartzville Road.
- **Dutch Cousins Campground** - A land development that includes a 15,000 sf multi-use building, a 2,400 sf pavilion, and various outdoor recreational facilities, at an existing campground at Hill Road.
- **Grande** - An 121-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Swartzville Road.
- **Heritage Mennonite Church** - A porte-cochere and 1,750 sf addition to an existing church at South Line Road.
- **Village at East Cocalico** - A subdivision that includes five single-family detached dwellings and 96 town-homes at Muddy Creek Road.
- **Wabash Landing, Phase III** - A subdivision that includes 18 single-family detached homes, seven single-family detached-homes with conversion apartments, 22 semi-detached homes, and 14 attached homes, at Wabash Road and Stevens Road.

*The following subdivision and land development projects are among those receiving approval in the recent years, and construction has not yet begun:*

- **935 Stone Hill** - A land development that includes a 450sf office at an existing manufacturing facility at Stone Hill Road.
- **Mount Zion Church, Phase I** - A 6,300 sf addition to an existing church at Denver Road.
- **Muddy Creek** - A four-unit apartment building at Muddy Creek Church Road.
- **Roechling** - A 56,600 sf addition to an existing medical manufacturing facility at Denver Road.

*The following approved subdivision and land development projects are now under construction:*

- **Carriage Hill, Phase III** - An 18-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Ridge Avenue and Lee Drive.
- **Wright Ebersole** - A 325,000 sf recycling and warehouse facility at North Reading Road and Hill Road.
- **Wabash Landing, Phase II** - A residential subdivision that includes 27 single-family detached dwellings, one single-family detached-home with conversion apartment, 20 semi-detached dwellings, 18 attached dwellings, and 16 apartments, at Wabash Road and Stevens Road.



### Park and Recreation News

The Recreation Board would like to send a special thank you to Aaron Wilczek. Aaron, who is with Troop 60, chose the Reamstown Park for his Eagle Scout project. His project included replacing 2 basketball poles and hoops, removing the old ones, having new lines painted, installing new fencing along with building and installing new benches. Aaron was wonderful to work with, he provided us with monthly reports on the progress of the project. Aaron secured all the donations to complete this project on his own.



We would also like to extend our thanks to the following donors that made this project possible:

Four Seasons Produce, Benchmark Construction, Heck Construction, Steffy Concrete, Martin Paving, Lancaster Asphalt Systems, Agway, the Stetter Family, Superior Line Striping, 3 Little Pigs Welding, Filter Shine, DenTech Industrial, Eagle Rental,

Reamstown Athletic Association, Edwards Electric, Summers Trucking, Denver Meats, Leid, Lorah & Company, State Farm Insurance- Matt Williams and Chikes Orthodontics.

Volunteer Today!  
Your local  
Emergency Services  
need you!

### VISIT THEIR WEBSITES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

[reamstownfirecompany.com](http://reamstownfirecompany.com)  
[smokestownfire.com](http://smokestownfire.com)  
[stevensfire.org](http://stevensfire.org)  
[reamstownfirecompany.com/ambulance](http://reamstownfirecompany.com/ambulance)

*Smoke detectors  
make a great gift!*





## Fishing Creek Park Meadow Project

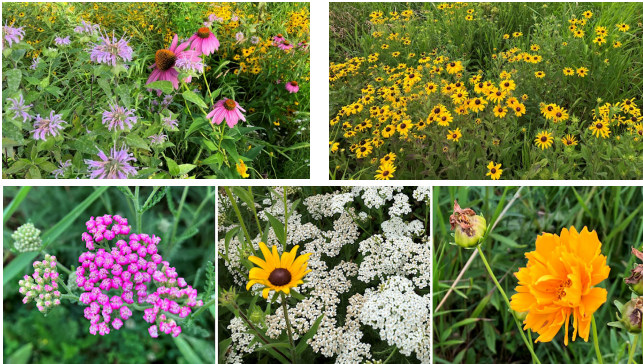
We are now to the end of the second growing season for our meadow project at Fishing Creek Park. Meadows take time to become established. These perennial plants are started from seed and only a few of the species flower in their first year. Most start flowering in their second year. This year we had many more native wildflower species blooming than last year.

Meadows are beneficial in a variety of ways. First, they are only mowed once a year in very early spring reducing maintenance costs versus weekly mowing. A lot of pollinators, especially native bees, overwinter in or on the stems of plants. Cutting the meadow after they emerge in the spring allows them to survive into the next season. Meadows also provide food sources for pollinators in the form of pollen and nectar from the flowers. Many insect species also feed on the plants during their larval stage.

Meadows also provide a water quality benefit. A meadow does a much better job of filtering stormwater runoff than a closely mowed lawn. The larger plants have much larger root systems helping to prevent soil erosion.

Finally, meadows are far more colorful than a mowed lawn. They provide very pleasing scenes, and also provide opportunities to view pollinators, including butterflies while they forage on the flowers.

The mix of flowers in our meadow will keep changing in subsequent years. It takes about five years for a meadow to become fully established and stabilized.

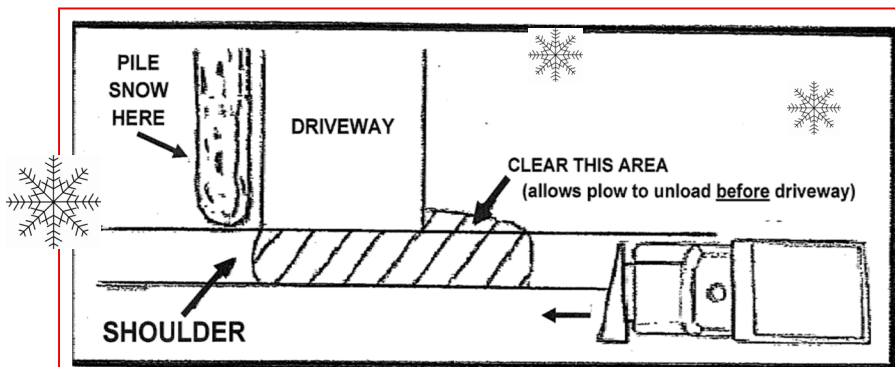


Photograph of a monarch butterfly caterpillar in the meadow on a milkweed.

## 'tis the season

### SNOW CLEARING TIPS

Residents are asked to remove vehicles from the street in advance of snowfall. This makes plowing safer and more efficient if the plow drivers do not have to maneuver around parked vehicles. To avoid snow from ending up in your driveway, wait until the road has been completely plowed to the curb before shoveling the last 5-10 feet of your driveway. This way less snow from the road will end up in your driveway. When the roads are plowed curb to curb, there will be room to park your cars after the storm. "Thank you" for parking your cars in the driveways and off of the streets. *Thank you, Road Crew*



Clearing the area to the right of the driveway opening, allows the snowplow to unload the snow before it reaches the driveway opening; therefore not plowing your driveway shut.

### SNOW AND ICE

Snow and ice must be cleared from the sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow/ice storm to a pathway width of 24 inches. Throwing, tossing, blowing, or depositing snow/ice onto any public road is prohibited.

Please keep the fire hydrants cleared of snow and ice.

**DIG ME OUT**



# Steps to Earth Fitness

## CARDBOARD

Corrugated cardboard only; no paperboard products similar to cereal boxes, shoe boxes and tissue boxes. No strings when transporting. Open dusk to dawn every day. Park at the entrance gate and walk your cardboard up to the dumpster. If you have a lot of cardboard, come to the Township office for a "temporary pass" which will open the gate allowing you to park close to the dumpster. The temporary pass must be returned immediately after disposal. Remember corrugated cardboard is a "fluted" look on the inside.

*It's okay to "over do" it.  
There is no pain  
AND everything to gain.*



**Recommended to do at least  
15 minutes of recycling  
per day / 7 days per week.**



**Follow these simple steps to  
keep the earth in shape.**



**Wow! The residents of East Cocalico recycled a lot of cardboard this past year! Congratulations!! The amount of cardboard recycled from Jan. 2023 to the time of printing of this newsletter was 8.84 tons of corrugated cardboard! That is 17,680 pounds! Great job everyone! Keep up the good work!**



## CHRISTMAS TREES

During the season, there will be a drop off location to dispose of your real Christmas tree. It is located behind the Township Building, 100 Hill Road, Denver. Follow the posted signs. Please, no decorations, strings, or bags used in transporting. Open in January, M-F, 8am-4:30pm, Sat. 8am-3pm. This site is for East Cocalico Township residents only.

## RECYCLE CENTER

**Drop Off:** (1) Unwanted cell phones, (2) cell phone batteries, (3) cell phone chargers, (4) CFL bulbs (small "spiral" bulbs only, no long baluster tubes—call your hauler for those). **Pick Up:** (1) Kraft Bags for your leaves (contact your trash hauler for pickup days and costs), (2) recycling bins, (3) battery bags for used/old batteries (when bag is full, place it beside your recycling bin), and (4), educational recycling pamphlets.

## WOODY WASTE

East Cocalico Township has a gated/secured facility designated for the disposal of woody waste (tree/shrubbery trimmings less than 1.5" in diameter, and stumps under 12" in diameter. Access cards are needed to use the facility. Only residents of East Cocalico Township who have an active "Woody Waste Access Card" may deposit at the site (100 Hill Rd., Denver). To purchase an Access Card or Renew: (1) Mail: Fill out and mail the application\* and fee\*\* to: East Cocalico Township, 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517. When your application and payment are received, an access card will be mailed back to you. See below for fee & schedule\*. Check payable to: East Cocalico Township. (2) Walk in: Applications are available at 100 Hill Road, Denver. Cash and check accepted (no debit cards) Mon-Fri 8am-4:00pm. An access card will be issued to you on the spot.

\*Woody Waste Applications and more information can be found at [ECT.Town](http://ECT.Town).

\*\*Annual fee (January—December) \$15 a year. A pro-rated fee is applied when purchasing during the year (for example, purchasing an access card in June, the cost is \$8.75). If you choose to let your card expire it will be reactivated when payment is received.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
\$15.00	\$13.75	\$12.50	\$11.25	\$10	\$8.75	\$7.50	\$6.25	\$5.00	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$1.25



# Farmers Saving Soil and Stopping Sediment (FS4)

## Our New FS4 Program Is Working!

Our efforts to promote farming conservation practices have paid off! The Township is required under our MS4 permit (municipal separate storm sewer system) to reduce the amount of sediment (fine soil particles) released into our streams by 10%. That represents a reduction of 186,089 pounds of sediment per year.

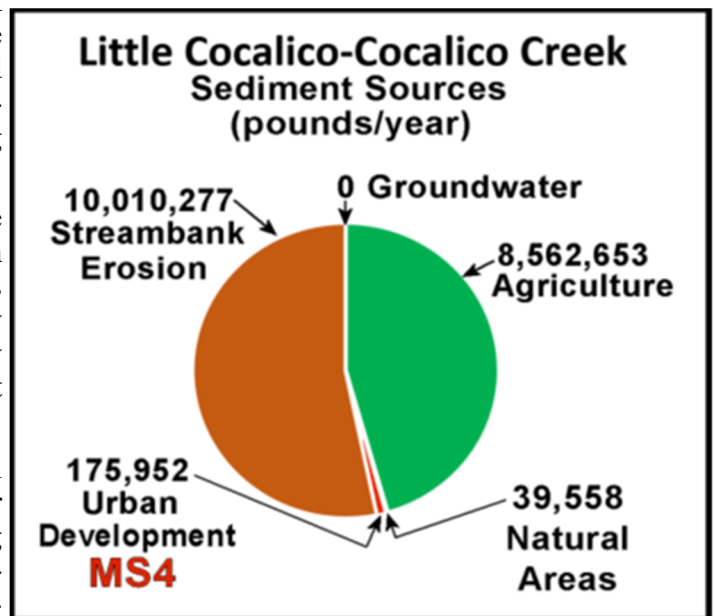
Best Management Practices (called BMPs) that can reduce sediment for MS4 include upgrading storm-water detention basins to improve water quality (that were previously designed to just control flow rate and volume), and streambank stabilization projects that reduce erosion. To get MS4 sediment reduction credit they must all be within the areas that the U.S. Census Bureau defines as “Urban Areas.”

East Cocalico Township is unusual since we have many farms located in our urban areas. This allowed us to start our FS4 program with farmers that pays them for BMPs that reduce soil loss and sediment. The pie chart shows the sources of sediment in the Cocalico & Little Cocalico Creeks watersheds (based on modeling).

Most of our sediment comes from streambank erosion and agricultural runoff. The tiny red slice of the pie is what is covered by the MS4 program – urban and developed areas. Making reductions there will have little impact on the goal of reducing pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay.

The conservation practice we are using to reduce sediment is to protect the soil surface from rain with crop residue left on the ground after harvest. Raindrops hit the residue and don’t excavate soil particles as they would on unprotected soil. This can reduce soil loss by as much as 79%, producing very significant sediment reductions.

We anticipate our participating farmers will achieve their 2023 goals, giving the Township credit for a reduction of over 270,000 lbs. of sediment, exceeding our MS4 requirement by over 60%. Using our FS4 program rather than a previously proposed streambank restoration project in the Reamstown Municipal Park has saved the Township over \$600,000 thanks to conservation by our farmers.



**Harvesting corn and spreading the residue on the soil to protect it from erosion and soil loss.**



### **Water & Sanitary Sewer System Improvement Projects**

In addition to the ongoing \$6M Meadowbrook Area Water & Sewer replacement project that started in July 2023 and is planned to finish in late Spring 2024 (go to our website for details, updates and FAQs), ECTA is also planning for the replacement of deteriorated/undersized waterlines in Kurtz Road. This est. \$1.1M project went out for bids in October 2023.

ECTA anticipates awarding a contract in December 2023 with construction starting in early Spring 2024 as weather permits. The project will include the installation of approx. 4,000 ft of new 8-inch waterline in Kurtz Rd from the Denver Rd intersection all the way to the N Reading Rd (Rt. 272) intersection by Kyma restaurant. Additionally, 5 new hydrants will be installed along the new water main, 19 new water laterals will be installed to existing customers and 360 ft of old water main in Park St will be abandoned between the N Reading Rd (Rt. 272) intersection and N Reamstown Rd intersection. Weather permitting, ECTA anticipates this project to be completed by the end of 2024 and is pleased to have received funding assistance from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) in the form of a low interest loan.

### **PLEASE HELP KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW**

ECTA currently maintains 367 fire hydrants throughout the Township. 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. Snow should be removed a minimum of three feet completely around the hydrant in order to provide the fire company with unobstructed access. With the large number of hydrants we maintain throughout our water system, it can take some time after a snow storm before our employees can inspect and clear all of them. Any assistance you can give us in keeping our hydrants clear of snow is greatly appreciated. Your neighborhood and our local fire companies will benefit from hydrants that are readily visible and easily accessible when the need arises.



### **COLD WEATHER REMINDERS**



Here are some cold weather tips you can follow to help keep your water service working as intended:

- Wrap exposed water pipes with insulating material to help prevent freezing.
- Check outside faucets to make sure they are turned off and disconnect any hoses.
- Make sure heat can reach your water pipes and water meter. Pay particular attention to water pipes enclosed in bathroom cabinets, kitchen cabinets or in crawl spaces.

Remember that while ECTA owns the meter, the water customer is responsible for protecting it. If the water meter breaks because of freezing or other damage, ECTA will charge you for the meter's replacement.



Do we have your most up-to-date contact information?  
Send us an email or give us a call to make sure!

### **HOW CAN MY WATER USAGE BE THAT HIGH?!?!**

Some situations such as more people in your household, children home from college, watering plants/gardens, and filling a pool are just a few reasons for your usage to increase. However, when it comes to surprisingly high water bills, a leak is usually the cause. How can you keep this surprise from happening to you? By being proactive and monitoring your own water meter and usage. ECTA reads your water meter once every quarter for billing. We will notify you if we see high usage as compared to previous quarterly readings, but we encourage you to check your water meter and usage on a regular basis throughout the quarter. Find your water meter, open the black, flip top lid and you will see a small, silver, flower-shaped leak indicator in the center. If that leak indicator is spinning when you are not using water, this indicates the presence of a leak. You can also track your water usage by reading your water meter on a regular basis. Simply write down the reading (including the stationary zero at the end of the dial) and subtract the readings to see how much water has been used. When some customers think of water leaks, they assume they will see puddles on the floor, but this is not usually the case. Some common sources of leaks are a running toilet, a malfunctioning water softener, and leaky faucets, among others. ECTA requires that all leaks be repaired immediately by the consumer. Be aware that no relief will be given for water that has passed through the water meter. Also, it is a good idea to turn off the water at your isolation valve inside the home when you are planning to be away for an extended period of time. Taking these few easy steps could help you avoid an unexpected and possibly significant increase on your next bill.

### **TO DO LIST...**

- ☐ Check out ECTA's customer portal
- ☐ Pay my water/sewer bill online (service fee will apply)
- ☐ Enroll in AutoPay (service fee will apply)
- ☐ Sign up for paperless billing (will no longer receive a postcard)

Go to our website to get started!  
[www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com)



EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP  
100 HILL ROAD  
DENVER, PA 17517

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

EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP, 100 Hill Rd, Denver, PA 17517 M-F 8am-4:30pm P:717-336-1720 F: 717-336-1724 W: [ECT.town](mailto:ECT.town) E:[Twp@ECT.town](mailto:Twp@ECT.town)  
EAST COCALICO POLICE, 100 Hill Rd, Denver, PA 17517 M-F 8am-4pm EMERG: 911 P: 717-336-1725 F: 717-336-1737 W: [eastcocalicopolice.com](mailto:eastcocalicopolice.com)  
WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY, 102 Hill Rd, Denver, PA 17517 M-F 8am-4:30pm P: 717-336-1731

W: [www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com](http://www.eastcocalicotownshipauthority.com) E: [water@ecocalicotwpauth.com](mailto:water@ecocalicotwpauth.com)  
TAX COLLECTOR, Jill Cordan P: 717-336-1721 W: [ECT.town/tax-collector](mailto:ECT.town/tax-collector) E: [TaxCollector@ECT.town](mailto:TaxCollector@ECT.town)  
MANAGER, Tommy Ryan P: 717-336-1710 E: [Manager@ECT.town](mailto:Manager@ECT.town)  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, Abe Stick P: 610-301-6197 E: [PWD@ECT.town](mailto:PWD@ECT.town)  
REAMSTOWN POOL, 68 Ream Rd, Stevens, PA 17578 P: 717-336-3537 (only in operation when the pool is open)  
REAMSTOWN FIRE COMPANY 12 W Church St, Reamstown 17567 P: 717-336-3958 W: [reamstownfirecompany.com](http://reamstownfirecompany.com)  
SMOKESTOWN FIRE COMPANY 860 Smokestown Rd, Denver 17517 P: 717-336-3311 W: [smokestownfire.com](http://smokestownfire.com)  
STEVENS FIRE COMPANY 91 Stevens Rd, Stevens 17578 P: 717-336-4200 W: [stevensfire.org](http://stevensfire.org)

EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP 2024 MEETING DATES

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

All meeting dates and times are subject to change, please check website.

MONTH	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS		PLANNING COMMISSION	ZONING HEARING BOARD	RECREATION BOARD	WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
	9:00 AM	7:00 PM				
JANUARY		2*, 18	22	10	9	30
FEBRUARY		1, 15	26	14	13	27
MARCH	21	7**	25	13	12	26
APRIL		4, 18	22	10	9	30
MAY		2, 16	20	8	14	28
JUNE		6***, 20	24	12	11	25
JULY		NONE, 18	22	10	9	30
AUGUST		1, 15	26	14	13	27
SEPTEMBER	19	5****	23	11	10	24
OCTOBER		3, 17	28	9	8	29
NOVEMBER		7, 21	25	13	12	26
DECEMBER		5, 19	23	11	10	31

AUDITORS MEETING: Wednesday, January 3rd @ 4:00pm.  
POLICE PENSION MEETINGS: Start at 8:30am: Jan. 10, April 17, July 17, and Oct. 16.  
TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE and the PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOPS: Announced and advertised as needed.  
\*Organizational Meeting, held on Tuesday, January 2nd @ 7:00pm.  
\*\*Meeting held at the Stevens Fire Hall, 91 Stevens Road, Stevens.  
\*\*\*Meeting held at the Reamstown Fire Hall, 12 West Church Street, Reamstown.  
\*\*\*\*Meeting held at the Smokestown Fire Hall, 860 Smokestown Rd., Denver.

Your thoughts, comments, and suggestions  
on the newsletter are welcomed!  
Lisa A. Kashner, Township Newsletter Editor