20 Moffat Drive Covington Township PA 18444 covingtontwp.org

Board of Supervisors

David J. Petrosky, Chairman Thomas M. Yerke, Vice Chairman Marlene Beavers, Supervisor John Brostoski, Supervisor William M. Fells, Supervisor

Solicitor Brian Yeager

Secretary/Treasurer Kate Tierney

Building Inspector David Lamm

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer William J. Wright

> Zoning Secretary Melinda Thomas

Sewage Enforcement Officer George Van Brunt

> Newsletter Editor William J. Wright

Newsletter Co-Editor/Graphics Melinda Thomas

Spring Clean-Up

It's clean up time again! Our annual spring clean up will be held on <u>Friday, May 15th & Saturday</u>, <u>May 16th from 8am—5pm ONLY</u>! (There will **not** be any collections taken on Sunday!) Permits will be available for township residents only starting on March 16th at the Municipal Office (Moffat Estate) from 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Your Township Supervisors are encouraging everyone to remove unsightly junk and debris from their properties!

- ⇒ You **MUST** have a permit to discard debris. One permit will be issued to each property owner.
- ⇒ The property **CANNOT** be a vacant lot or commercial property and the property owner must personally pick up their own permit.
- ⇒ Permits will be limited to 2 trips of junk and related items (permit will be checked carefully). Any additional trips will be charged \$25.00 per load.
- ⇒ To ensure that no non-residents are bringing debris to the clean-up, the Police Department will inspect and enforce all permits.
- ⇒ With the exception of tires, the clean-up is free of charge. ALL tires must be removed from their rims. Fees for tires are:

\$3.00 per car tire \$6.00 per light truck tire \$20.00 per heavy truck tire



- ⇒ <u>THE FOLLOW ITEMS WILL NOT BE TAKEN FOR CLEAN-UP</u>: Hazardous waste, gasoline, kerosene, paint, paint cans, oil, oil containers, combustible fuels, building materials & household garbage.
- Please remember to enter the Clean-up area from Dorantown Road (located behind the Covington Fire Department) and exit via Route 502.

Covington Township Wins Statewide Award for Communication Efforts

Covington Township's efforts to keep its residents updated and informed about the community have earned the municipality an award in the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' 47th Annual Township Citizen Communication Contest. The annual contest recognizes townships that have successfully communicated programs and activities to citizens.

Covington Township is very honored to received second place in the Class 4 Newsletters category (for townships with populations of 2,500 and under). The contest attracted entries from across the commonwealth in different categories, including printed and electronic newsletters, most improved newsletters, annual reports, other publications, and websites. In all, 117 entries were submitted for this year's competition.

All contest entries were judged on the usefulness of information presented and how well the information was communicated to township residents. Publications were also judged on their overall attractiveness and readability. Judges for the contest included members of the association's standing committees, representatives from the

Governor's Center for Local Government Services, and staff members of the Pennsylvania Township News, the association's awardwinning monthly magazine.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania's 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas.





Volume 44 March 2015



<u>Board of Supervisors</u> (570) 842-8336 ~ Chairman David J. Petrosky (Meeting 1st Tues. of the month @ 7pm; Work session last Tues of the month @ 7pm)

Building Inspector ~ (570) 842-4607 ~ David Lamm, 8am - 5pm

<u>Dept. of Public Works</u> (570) 842-8356 ~ Director Thomas M. Yerke

District Magistrate (570) 842-2111 ~ John Mercuri, Esquire

Fire Dept. (570) 842-4130 ~ Brad Jones, Fire Chief

<u>Main Office</u> (570) 842-8336 ~ Kate Tierney, Secretary; 9am-4pm Monday-Friday, Moffat Estate

Pavilion Rental (570) 842-7580 ~ Marlene Beavers

<u>Planning Commission</u> (570) 842-6548 ~ Denise Hokien, Secretary (Work Session 1st Wed. of the month @7pm, Meeting 3rd Wed. of the month @7pm)

Police Dept. (570) 842-6400 ~ Bernie Klocko, Chief

Real Estate Tax Collection (570) 842-8336 ~ Kate Tierney (Tues. 9am-12pm, 1-3pm; Wed. & Thurs. 9-11am, or by appointment)

Recreation Committee (570) 842-8336 (Meeting 3rd Thurs. of the month @6:30pm)

<u>Sewage Enforcement Officer</u> (570) 842-9333 ~ George VanBrunt

<u>Sewer Authority Office</u> (570) 842-0757 ~ Ann Bentler, Manager (10am-6pm Monday-Friday; Meeting 2nd Tues. of the month @7pm)

Township Engineer (570) 842-4310 ~ Mary Louise Butler, Engineering Surveying Consultants & Design, Inc.

Wage Tax & Local Service Tax Collector (866) 701-7206 ~ Berkheimer Assoc.

Zoning Office & Zoning Hearing Board Secretary (570) 842-0457 ~ Melinda Thomas (8am-4pm Monday-Friday)

Zoning Officer (570) 842-0457 ~ William J. Wright (9am-12pm Monday-Friday or by appointment)

Enjoy Your Township

With warmer weather on the way, the Board of Supervisors would like to encourage you to spend some time enjoying the beauty of the Moffat Estate. As you may know, the Estate has walking trails, benches for tired feet, a pavilion, a fishing pond and of course, a beautiful children's area where the younger children can enjoy slides, swings, climbing, and many other activities. The only requirements are that you pick up your trash, keep your pets on a leash and dispose of ALL pet droppings. The park is open at daybreak and closes at dusk.

In addition to Moffat Park, the township has a walking trail and basketball court directly behind the Senior Center off Route 435. The county has also opened a large county park in the vicinity of Winship and Sanko Road, which contains baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball court, children's play area, a fishing pond and walking trails. So, as the weather warms, get motivated and take advantage of the quiet beauty and many activities available to Covington residents.

From Your Supervisors.....

At the supervisor's re-organizational meeting on January 5, 2015, the supervisor's reappointed David Petrosky as chairman and Thomas Yerke as vice-chairman.

The supervisors, at a previous meeting, also voted to enclose the pavilion this spring by using approximately \$200,000 received in a Department of Community and Economic Development Share Grant. Work on the enclosure should begin soon after a break in the weather.

The board voted to appoint the individual supervisors to the following assignments:

- Olice Liaison John Brostoski
- Oning Liaison David Petrosky
- Pavilion Manager & Planning Commission Liaison Marlene Beavers
- Reappointed Director of Public Works Thomas Yerke
 - Sewer Authority Liaison William Fells

Rabbi Mendel Epstein has said: *"If you are too busy to spend time with your children, then you are busier than God intended you to be."* Our time is a precious and finite resource, under constant pressure from a multitude of concerns. Whenever we spend time doing something, we deny ourselves the opportunity to do something else, and so we need to weigh up whether the cost of this lost opportunity is worth bearing. This fundamental economic principle, known as "opportunity cost", is just as valid in the micro-economies of our lives as in the world of commerce.

Find Your Name Contest

The hidden name from our last newsletter was Patricia Noto. She won a duffel bag & clutch. Another name chosen randomly appears in this newsletter. Can you find your name? Call (570) 842-0457 to collect!

Advertising

Covington Corner is distributed quarterly to approximately 1,000 households and/or businesses and surrounding areas. If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, please call Melinda Thomas at (570) 842-0457. The cost of a 2" x 2 1/2" ad is \$25.00.

From Your Police Department..

A summary of Covington Township Police actions during the year 2014.

Total service calls: 1962

Traffic citations: 83 (43 speeding)



<u>Non-traffic citations</u>: 38 (11- Bad checks, 6 Harassment, 4 Disorderly conduct, 6 Retail theft, 1- Dog ordinance, 7 Under age drinking, 1 Trespasser, 2 Criminal mischief)

Parking tickets: 49 (22 voided due to placards, 2 still outstanding)

Criminal Arrests: 30

2014 arrest offenses:

14:Theft and related offenses: 5 Assault, 4 DUI, 1 Criminal mischief, 1 Invasion of Privacy, 1 PFA violation, 1 Accident involving injury or death, 1 Retail theft, 2 Unauthorized use of a vehicle

2014 911 call summary:

Auto accidents: 119 Welfare checks: 25 Suspicious vehicles: 21 Traffic stops: 191 Assist to neighboring police: 67 Assist to Fire & EMS: 285 Domestic violence calls: 47 Burglar alarm: 95 Burglary: 2 Attempted burglary: 4 DUI: 4 Thefts: 90 Stolen vehicle:7 Motor vehicle violations: 40 ATV complaints: 13 Disorderly subject: 16 Investigation: 140 Warrant service: 10 Hit & run: 11 Landlord/ tenant dispute: 0 Harassment: 18 PFA violation: 2 PFA Service: 4 Shots fired: 7 Abandon vehicle: 10 Unauthorized use: 5 Suicidal subject: 5

Assist to motorist: 40 Public drunkenness: 3 Fraud: 31 Littering: 2 Criminal mischief: 30 Narcotics: 8 Suspicious persons: 13 Recovered stolen vehicle: 5 Dog/ animal complaint: 45 Nuisance: 11 Eluding police: 0 Sex crime:2 Neighbor dispute: 22 Fight in progress: 6 Burning complaint: 5 Assault: 6 Mental/302 type: 3 Road rage: 3 Parking complaint: 6 Juv problem: 11 Child Custody: 0 Identity Theft: 2 Arson: 1 Trespasser: 8 Missing person: 8 Threats: 6 Under age drinking: 7

To contact the Covington Township Police Department, call (570) 842-6400 to leave a message. All messages will be returned as soon as possible. If an emergency exists, call 911 and give them the appropriate information (ie: name, address & the nature of your emergency) and they will dispatch the appropriate help.



Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 5207 Breakfast - 2nd Sun. of each month 9 am-noon (adults \$5 child 12 & under \$2)

<u>Moscow Fire/EMS Explorer Post 7</u>—Meets alternate Tues. Moscow Fire Station, Main St. 7 pm. For young men & women of the NP area 14-19 years of age (570)842 -7211

<u>NP Rotary Club</u>—Meets at the Elmhurst Country Club Thursdays 6 pm in the summer, at alternate NP sites January through March (570)842-2547

Minisink Lions Club—meets 1st & 3rd Thurs. at the VFW—contact Patrick Verastro (570) 689-2843

Covington Fire Co. Women's Auxiliary — Meets the 1st Mon. of each month at 7 pm call Betty for more information (570) 842-0448

<u>NP Kids Closet</u> - Supplies clothing to needy area children. In need of all sizes in socks and underwear. To make a donation or for an appointment, please call Sara Keating at (610)390-7961 or (570)689-4383.

<u>NP Food Pantry</u>— Bill's Plaza (next to Tasty Swirl) every Thursday noon -1 pm Proof of North Pocono School District Full-time residency required. Dry goods donations appreciated. (570) 842-4741

Parish Buffet Breakfast—St. Eulalia's Church, Elmhurst, 3rd Sunday of every month 8:30 am -12:30 pm in church hall (65+ \$5)(12-64 \$6) (6-11 \$3) (5+ under free)

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)—each Tuesday 6:30pm, Moscow Borough Building, Van Brunt St. Moscow

Pierogi Sale—St. Rita's Church, Gouldsboro \$7/dozen (570) 842-4995, (570) 842-8692 or (570) 842-4176

Jefferson Twp. Fire Co.—Station 29. All You Can Eat Breakfast first Sunday of every month 8 am—noon

<u>NP Library</u> - (all weekly events) Children's Story & Craft Hour Tues. 11 am; Bridge Club Fri. 12:30 pm; Family Game Night Thurs. 5 pm; Family Movie Night last Fri. of each month 7 pm; Adult Book Club 3rd Thurs. 6 pm; Mexican Train Tues. 12:30 pm; Lap-sit Story Hour for children up to 2 years old Fridays at 10 am; Third Sat. Science Saturday 11 am (570) 842-4700 www.lclshome.org/npocono

<u>Business 2 Business</u>—Meets every Thursday 8-9 am at Friendly's in Dunmore (570) 842-2808

Moscow Mason Lodge - Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month, Lodge Hall, Green St. Moscow, Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30 (570) 842-6591

<u>North Pocono Cultural Society</u> - Meeting 2nd Monday of each month, 7 pm at the Moscow Borough Building 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow (570) 357-1672.

<u>Gouldsboro Volunteer Fire Company</u> - Bingo every Thurs. 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:30pm

<u>NP LovinLife Ministries</u> - meets every Wednesday 7 pm for Bible Study at the Swartz Residence, 21 Swartz Drive. New members welcome. (570) 842-3205

<u>The Lucky Horse Shoes 4H Club</u> - meets the 1st Sunday of each month 4 pm at Woodlands Stables, Freytown Road call Carol (570) 842-3742.



March 2015



			ALL I	A 11 1.11 1/		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 "If you judge people, y them."	2 rou have no time to love - Mother Theresa	3 Board of Supervisor's Meeting 7pm	4 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm	5	6 Soup & Pasta Sale Daleville United Methodist Church (570) 842-6776	7 9-11am Recycling
8 Provingent	9	10 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm			13 Soup & Pasta Sale Daleville United Methodist Church (570) 842-6776	14
15 Spring is when you fee with a shoe full of slus		17	18 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	19 Recreation Committee Meeting 6:30pm	20 Pring Soup & Pasta Sale Daleville United Methodist Church (570) 842-6776	9-11am Recycling
	23 ring is one thing, and the f ometimes as great as a m		25 The difference ~Henry Van Dyke	26	27 Soup & Pasta Sale Daleville United Methodist Church (570) 842-6776	28 8am - 3pm Craft & Health Fair N.P. High School
29	30	31				



For Your Better Health....

Palm Sunday

Watch Your Back with Spring Cleaning

By Lisa Conniff, MSPT at Riverside Rehabilitation

Board of Supervisor's Work

Session 7pm

Everyone loves to have that sparkling clean feeling when the bright sunshine arrives each spring. Getting rid of that layer of winter dust can be very strenuous, and if you are like the general population, you won't rest until the last bit of dirt is gone. However, your body's fatigue as you finish the lifting, reaching or pushing can make you vulnerable to injury. Here are some helpful tips for keeping your back and body safe while doing your spring cleaning this year:

- Wait until you have help before moving furniture or other heavy items.
- Use a step stool to avoid over-stretching when cleaning walls, windows, high shelves or anything above your head.
- Kneel or squat to dust or clean things at low levels, rather than bending from your waist.
- Keep the vacuum handle or items you are pushing/pulling close to your body and use your legs to do the work.
- Keep your back straight and bend at your hips and knees to lift boxes. Keep the box close to your body.
- Take frequent rest breaks to sit and stretch.
- Stop if you feel tired, dizzy, out of breath or if you experience pain. This is your body's way of telling you that you did too much!



Putting Nuts in Your Diet

Almonds can help keep a healthy heart ticking. A new study found that after eating meals that included 1.75 ounces of almonds (about 42 nuts) a day for four weeks, healthy men ages 20 - 70 had lower blood pressure, improved blood flow and increased levels of a naturally occurring antioxidant in their bloodstream All are signs of decreased risk of heart disease and heart attack. Note: Always check with your doctor.

Source: Free Radical Research



Eating More Fruits and Vegetables



If an apple a day keeps that doctor away, how about five (5) apples? Researchers looked at the fruit and vegetable intake of more that 800,000 people and found that those who ate five (5) servings of fruits and vegetables lived that longest. Every serving of fruits and vegetable you eat each day could cut your risk of premature death by 5% according to the study. However, benefits max out at five servings a day. Source: BMJ

April 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm NPSD Early Dismissal	2 NPSD Closed	3 Good Friday NPSD Closed	4 9-11am Recycling
5 Easter	6 NPSD Closed	7 Board of Supervisor's Meeting 7pm	8 Easter is the only time of the year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket. - Author Unknown	9 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting 7pm	10 7pm - 9:30pm Footloose N.P. High School Play	11 7pm - 9:30pm Footloose N.P. High School Play
12 I like kindness. It's so ment can't tax and it's will return to you some - St	free to give away that	14 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	15 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm Tax Day	16 Recreation Committee Meeting 6:30pm	17	18 9-11am Recycling
19202122Township offices will be CLOSED for P.S.A.T.S. Educational Conference from April 20th-April 22nd.		23	24 celeonte Arbor Day.	25		
26 Have the courage to say face the truth. Do the rig right. These are the mag with integrity.		28 Board of Supervisor's Work Session 7pm	29	30 Where flowers bloom, so does hope. - Lady Bird Johnson		



Bird Feeding Myths and Facts



Myth: If birds eat uncooked rice, it can swell up in their throats or stomachs and kill them.

Fact: Plenty of birds eat uncooked rice in the wild. Bobolinks, sometimes called "rice birds," are a good example. While rice is okay for birds, many wedding parties now throw bird seed instead.

Myth: Birds can choke on peanut butter.

- Fact: There is no documented evidence for this. However, mixing peanut butter with grit or cornmeal will break up the stickiness if you are concerned.
- Myth: Birds become dependent on bird feeders.
 - Fact: Birds become accustomed to a reliable food source and will visit daily. However, birds search for food in many places, so if your feeder goes empty, most birds will find food elsewhere. During periods of extreme ice, snow, or cold, the sudden disappearance of food might be a hardship; if you are leaving town during freezing weather, consider having someone fill your feeder while you're away.

Myth: Birds' feet can stick to metal perches.

- Fact: This is not likely. A bird's legs and feet are made up mostly of tough tendons that have little blood flow during cold weather. However, we've heard rumors of feet sticking to perches: if you observe this unfortunate circumstance, please take a picture and send it to Project Feeder Watch.
- Myth: Feeding hummingbirds in late summer can stop their migration.
 - Fact: Some people believe they should stop feeding hummingbirds right after Labor Day because the birds' southward migrations will be interrupted. However, a bird's migratory urge is primarily triggered by day length (photoperiod), and even a hearty appetite won't make a bird resist that urge. In fact, your feeder might provide a needed energy boost along a bird's migration route.

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Мау	201.	5	* 🖗			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			2		1	2 9-11am Recycling
	4 are those in which the spacedabout 10 feet -Author Unknown	5 Board of Supervisors Meeting 7pm Cinco de Mayo	6 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm		8 therhood is unselfishness er the center of your own our children.	
10 Mother's Day	11	12 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	13 "Children are great imit something great to imit		15 NPSD Early Dismissal Spring Clean-	16 9-11am Recycling Up 8am - 5pm
17 A mother is she who ca others but whose place		19 Municipal Primary Election Ham Dinner @ Daleville United Methodist Church (570) 842-6776	20 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	21 Recreation Committee Meeting 6:30pm	22 A Mother's love is patie others are forsaking, it even though the heart i	never fails or falters,
24	25 Township offices closed Memorial Day NPSD Closed	26 Board of Supervisors Work Session 7pm		28 men and valiant women in undying gratitude. Ameri	ca will never forget their s	30 ry can never be repaid.
31				piness and well-being ah to forgive yourself, over a	and over again, for doing	

1 AK

Memorial Day Service

On Monday, May 25, 2014 at 1pm, Covington Township will hold its annual Memorial Day Service, to honor the many brave men and women who have faithfully served our country. There will be an honor guard presentation by VFW Post 5207, guest speakers and refreshments following the service. This event will be held at our Township Memorial next to Covington Police Department on Route 435. Please join us, rain or shine, in honoring those who have fought and died for



The bond between mothers and their children is one defined by love. As a mother's prayers for her children are unending, so are the wisdom, grace, and strength they provide to their children. Brusident George W. Bush

Grandma's too...

While we honor all our mothers with words of love and praise.
While we tell about their goodness and their kind and loving ways.
We should also think of Grandma, she's a mother too, you see.....
For she mothered my dear mother as my mother mothers me.

- Author Unknown



10 MK

"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy," is one of the profound remarks of the Vietnamese Buddhist thinker Thich Nhat Hanh. And not only of our own joy, but that of others. There is no simpler or more expressive way of communicating goodwill than by smiling. Whether or not we know the person to whom we present it, a smile is always a gift worth giving.



By Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Renna

The following information is not something I enjoy writing about, and most people do not like to hear about, "Burial".

All Veterans, spouses and dependent children may be eligible for burial and memorial benefits.

Burial in National Cemeteries usually include; gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing the grave, headstone or grave marker and perpetual care. Keep in mind, the veteran does not have to die before a spouse of dependent child can be eligible for burial or memorial benefits.

Your local funeral home can provide you with most information needed for burial and related matters.

The following web site and phone numbers will probably answer all concerns.

Cemetery and Burial information	www.cem.va.gov
Scranton Veterans Center	570 344-2676
VA Facilities	800 827-1000





OPEN Mon. - FRI. 9 AM to 2 PM ~ for adults 55 and over ~ Call 842-6727 Located directly behind the Covington Police Department on Route 435 in Daleville

PINOCHLE TOURNAMENT: 9:30am - 2pm, 2nd & 4th Mon.

BINGO & DINNER: 3-8 pm, 3rd Monday

EXERCISE: Tai Chi Class 1:15 pm Thurs. Chair Exercises with Madelyn Kirkella 10:30am Tuesdays

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Cards, Games, Wii bowling, Dominos, Arts & Crafts, Health Screenings, Free weights, Ring Toss, Monthly Birthday parties, 10:30 am Brunch and more!

Volunteers needed to serve lunches & dinners (10:30 to 12:30 & 3:30 to 6:00) Lunch & transportation available with a reservation.

From Your Zoning Office....

Important things you should know about outdoor burning:

 \Rightarrow Whenever you intend to burn outdoors it is essential to evaluate the weather, including dry weather, drought and unusual fire risk conditions. Given these conditions, it is equally important to determine whether

the township, fire chief or other authorities have placed a burning ban in effect.

 \Rightarrow The second factor to consider is the effect that such burning may have on your neighbor's health and comfortable enjoyment of life and property. Keep in mind that contained outdoor fires (those in iron combustible containers) are not permitted



to burn between the hours of 9pm-8am. In addition, such fires are not permitted to smolder for more than thirty (30) minutes. NOTE: If the fire is uncontained, it is not allowed to burn or smolder between the hours of 5pm-5am.

- \Rightarrow The third factor to consider is what items are you permitted to burn or not burn within the township. Since the township promotes recycling, the following products are prohibited:
 - * Solid or liquid household waste



- * Animal matter * Plastic or Styrofoam
- Byproducts generated by the production process
- * Waste oil or petroleum
- * Tires
- * Any material the burning of which can produce noxious or hazardous smoke or fumes.
- \Rightarrow To make it easy:

Consider your neighbors. Consider hazardous weather conditions. Review the above list of prohibited items.

"What we think, or what we know, or what we believe in, is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do." John Ruskin (1819-1900), England

Clothes Closet

Last Thursday of every month 10am-3pm



WHERE:

Daleville United Methodist Church 423 Dorantown Road, Covington Twp PA 18444

DETAILS: Open to the public. Free clothing available for men, women, and children.

- Light snacks will be available.
- Donation accepted of new or gently used, clean clothing on Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am-2pm.
- Emergency clothing, leave a message at the church office (570) 842-6776

Some Interesting Information on Covington Township

Covington Township was created from Wilkes-Barre Township in 1818 and named after Brigadier General Leonard Covington of Maryland, who fought and died in the War of 1812 at Williamsburg in Canada. At the time of its creation, the township contained the whole of Henry Drinker's possessions in the southern part of old Luzerne County. The village of Daleville at the center of the township is named for David Dale Roy Strauss, a man who arrived from England and bought land in the area from Mr. Drinker.

Data from the 2010 Census:

- * Population: 2,284
- * Square Miles: 23.8
- * Density/Square Mile: 96
- * Elevation: 1,500 feet (Roaring Brook) 2,120 feet (Wayne County line)



COMMONLY ASKED LEGAL QUESTIONS By Attorney John Mercuri

What are Magisterial District Courts?

Every County in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia County has a system of Magisterial District Courts presided over by a Magisterial District Judge (an MDJ). These Courts hear traffic violations, summary offenses, landlord/tenant disputes and civil cases and issue, process and conduct preliminary hearings in all criminal cases, misdemeanors and felonies.

How can I file a civil claim in an MDJ Court?

Claims for \$12,000.00 or less may be filed in an MDJ Court. Filing with an MDJ Court is less formal, less expensive, and faster than Common Pleas Court. There is no need to be represented by an attorney in an MDJ Court, although for some cases it may be a good idea to have legal representation.

Where should I file a civil case?

Your claim must be filed where the defendant is located or the area where the claim arose. If you have any questions about venue or jurisdiction you can inquire with your local MDJ Court.

How can I bring a claim?

A Civil Complaint is begun by filling out a standard form that can be obtained at the MDJ Court or on-line at the website for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. You will complete your name and address and the name and address of the person or business that you are suing and a short statement about the claim. The Complaint may be filed by mail but it is better to bring it to the District Court where the clerk can advise you as to the amount of filing fees that must be paid with the Complaint. These fees must be paid at the time of filing the Complaint, but they are added to the amount claimed in your suit.

What happens after the Complaint is filed?

The clerk will set a hearing date within sixty (60) days. After the defendant receives a copy of your Complaint the defendant may have the right to file a Counter-Claim. At the hearing all parties will present their witnesses and any evidence relevant to the case. Hearings are open to the public, but generally only the parties and witnesses involved are in attendance. After hearing all witnesses and evidence, the Magisterial District Judge will make a decision in open Court or a decision will be rendered within five (5) days and mailed to the parties.

What happens after the decision is made?

If you succeed in your claim, the other party may make arrangements to pay the claim or may decide to appeal the decision within thirty (30) days to the Court of Common Pleas. If the appeal period passes and no payment has been made and no appeal has been filed, a successful claimant can take a certified copy of the decision of the MDJ Court to the Clerk of Courts at the Common Pleas Court level and to the County Sheriff for a Sheriff Sale on property owned by the defendant. This is a slightly complicated process and most people would benefit from the advice of an attorney before taking this step of levy and execution.

JOHN J. BROSTOSKI, JR.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

TAX SERVICES 570-499-7148

30 Daleville Highway ROUTE 502 MOSCOW, PA 18444

johnbrostoskitaxes@gmail.com



TRAIL RIDES · LESSONS · TACK SHOP · PONY RIDES · BOARDING · FARRIER Rides for Birthdays and Special Events, 4-H and Scouting Program

364 Freytown Road	(570) 842-3742
Gouldsboro, PA 18424	FAX: 848-1451
email: woodlandsstable@aol.com	Cell: 499-7656

North Pocono Preschool & Child Care Centers



Serving Infants - School Age Part of your local community

for over 35 years

570-842-2949

www.NorthPoconoPreschool.org





Kim Grab, Realtor ® Office: 570.842.9988 ext 1404 Cell: 570.499.6231 Email: thornhurst4@gmail.com

> North Pocono Office 253 Rt 453 S & H Plaza, Suite 5 Clifton Township

classicproperties.com

ATTORNEY JOHN J. MERCURI 570-842-4574

EXPERIENCE IN ALL TYPES OF LEGAL ISSUES

personal injury claims, trials, family law, business law, real estate, title insurance, wills and estates

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VETERANS

VETERANS (CREMATION SOCIETY

of Daleville & Mount Pocono 570-842-2513 / 570-839-2050

opane-Heating Oil-Kerosene

Diesel-Off Road Diesel-Gas

570-842-7624

"living and working in your community"



921 Drinker Tpke. • Covington Twp., PA 18444

DUFFY & SNOWDON FUNERAL HOME 401 Church Street • Moscow PA 18444 • Kevin J. Duffy, Supervisor

570-842-8501



of Daleville & Mount Pocono

570-842-7649 / 570-839-3653



Covington Township Board of Supervisors 20 Moffat Drive Covington Township, PA 18444

Return Service Requested

PrSrt Standard US Postage PAID Scranton, PA Permit No. 168

Covington Township passes a NO tax increase for the <u>15 consecutive year</u>!

Total Budget \$1,338,250

\$614,000

286,000

250,000

65,000

57,700

Ser la
- Oard

Major Receipts (approximate)					
Real Estate Taxes					
Local Enabling Tax Act 511					
Cash Investment					
Non-Revenue Receipts					
Public Safety					



<u>Major Expenditures</u> (approximate)

Public Safety	\$356,200
Public Works	316,500
Employee Taxes & Benefits	219,900
General Government	162,600
Maintenance & Utilities	149,000
Insurances	115,000