



Christmas Open House at the Moffat Estate

Board of Supervisors

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Newsletter Co-Editor/Graphics

Melinda Thomas

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors would like to invite you, and your children, to a special, fun filled afternoon at the Moffat Mansion on December 2nd & 3rd, from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Township employees and various North Pocono organizations will have the Moffat Estate and grounds beautifully decorated for the arrival of Santa.

This year, at the Moffat Mansion, your children will have the opportunity to get their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, make Christmas crafts, see the steam train sets, enjoy the Christmas carolers and ride in a horse drawn carriage. Additionally, the Hall of Trees will be displayed in our pavilion. Refreshments will be provided by the Covington Township Recreation Committee, along with, a free gift bag for each child.



12 'Tips' of Christmas

1. Buy a fire resistant tree and keep it secured on a sturdy stand away from fires and heaters.
2. Avoid sharp and delicate tree ornaments and decorations that look like sweets.
3. Only use non combustible or flame resistant tinsel and other trimmings on the tree.
4. Check Christmas lights for cracks, loose wires and faulty connections.
5. Do not leave burning candles unattended or placed near ever greens.
6. Check smoke detectors before putting up the tree and Christmas decorations.
7. Follow all age and ability guidelines on toys and do not digress.
8. Beware of choking hazards with common holiday foods such as peanuts and popcorn.
9. Remove all empty and partially empty cups of alcohol as soon as possible.
10. Watch your children while you bake or cook to avoid any burning or scalding incidents.
11. Keep any poisonous plants such as holly and poinsettias out of reach of children.
12. Make sure any visitors know how to keep your house safe for your child.

From Children's Safety Education Foundation



Covington Township *at your Service*

Board of Supervisors (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

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

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

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

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

Pavilion Rental (570) 842-7580 ~ Marlene Beavers

Planning Commission (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 @7:00pm)

Senior Center (570) 843-6485

Sewage Enforcement Officer (570) 842-9333 ~ George Van Brunt

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

Township Engineer (570) 237-5254 ~ Mary Louise Butler, P.E., Engineering Surveying Consultants & Design, Inc.

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

Zoning Office & Zoning Hearing Board Secretary (570) 842-0457 ~ Melinda Thomas (8am-4pm Mon.-Fri.)

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

From Your Supervisors...

The Board of Supervisors agreed to accept a donation of eleven (11) acres of land located off Route 435 from Thomas Mallis.

Paving of Sanko Road leading to Lackawanna County's Covington Park was completed in September.

The township road department will be working on a temporary fix to the bridge on Langan Road before winter weather arrives.

The annual End of Summer Fund Day at the Moffat Pavilion was once again a smashing success. The Airport Pickers Band was exceptionally well received.

As a result of the vast accumulation of junk at the Salvation Army site on Route 435, they were asked to have their containers removed. Any drop-offs which you may have can be made by calling the Salvation Army at 1-800-728-7825.

The wind turbine at the Moffat Estate has been repaired and is once again producing electricity for the pavilion.

Plans for the annual visit of Santa Claus to the Moffat Estate are being completed by the Recreation Committee. The estate will be fully decorated for his arrival.

From the Director of Public Works...



The road maintenance department has its equipment, including trucks, salt spreader, front end loaders, plows and backhoes in excellent condition and are ready for the upcoming winter months. Residents can help us do an even more efficient job if they try to give the plow sufficient room on the road and, unless it is an emergency situation, never pass a plow. As in past years, your help and support are truly appreciated.

Please keep in mind that during snowstorms, vehicles should not be parked on any township roads. Also, snow from driveways or residences should not be pushed or thrown back onto township roads.

Find Your Name Contest

No one found their name in the last edition. We will try again. 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...



Safe Winter Driving Tips

Although we were lucky enough to have an extension on the warm weather this fall, we know that winter will soon be upon us. The temperatures will drop and with that comes plenty of ice and snow. The roads will become slippery and your usual driving habits will have to change. Listed below are just a few reminders and tips to ensure safe driving during these adverse conditions.

1. Be sure to have the appropriate tires installed on your vehicle.
2. Always clear the snow from your entire vehicle before driving.
3. Defrost all windows to prevent your vision from being obstructed.
4. Drive slowly and at a speed that is safe and appropriate.
5. Increase the amount of space between yourself and the vehicle ahead of your own.
6. Avoid applying sudden pressure to your brakes. Apply slow, firm, gradual pressure when slowing or stopping.
7. Ensure that your vehicle is safe enough to be driven by having your inspection up to date.
8. Pay attention to the weather forecasts and plan out your commutes.
9. Upon approaching an intersection, allow for more distance between yourself and oncoming traffic before proceeding.
10. Always wear your seatbelt.
11. Refrain from using your cell phone. Your full attention should be on the road.
12. Stay home if possible. The fewer vehicles on the road mean less chances of an accident taking place.

The majority of motor vehicle accidents are preventable. Unsafe driving is normally the primary cause. Always remember to practice good driving habits and to use extra caution when driving this winter.

Neighborhood Events

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

NP Rotary Club—Meets at the Elmhurst Country Club on Thursdays 6 pm (at alternate NP sites January through March) (570)842-2547

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

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

NP Kids Closet - Supplies clothing to needy area children. In need of all sizes in socks and underwear. Also, gently used shoes & sneakers of any size. To make a donation or for an appointment, please call Sara Keating at (610)390-7961 or (570)689-4383.

NP Food Pantry— 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

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

NP Library - (all weekly events) Children's Story & Craft Hour on Tuesdays at 11 am; Bridge Club Fridays 12:30 pm; Family Game Night Thursdays 5 pm; Family Movie Night last Friday of each month 7 pm; Adult Book Club on the third Thursday 6 pm; Mexican Train Tuesdays 12:30 pm; Lap-sit Story Hour for children up to 2 years old on Fridays at 10 am; Third Saturday is Science Saturday 11 am (570) 842-4700 www.lclshome.org/npocono

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

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

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

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

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



December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Recycling 9-11am Christmas Open House at Moffat Mansion 12-4pm
3 Christmas Open House at Moffat Mansion 12-4pm	4	5 Board of Supervisors Meeting 7pm	6 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm	7 	8 "May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won't." General George S. Patton	9
10 VFW Post 5207 Auxiliary Breakfast 9-11:30am Adults \$6 / Kids \$3	11	12 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm Hanukkah	13 "What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessing rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace." Agnes M. Pharo	14	15	16 Recycling 9-11am
17 Afternoon with Santa 2-4pm @ Spring Brook Fire Co.	18 "Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most." Ruth Carter Stapleton	19	20 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	21 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm NPSD Early Dismissal Winter Solstice	22 Township Offices close at 12pm NPSD Closed through 1/1/18	23
24 Christmas Eve 31 New Year's Eve	25  Township offices are closed	26 Kwanzaa	27 Bicentennial Committee Meeting 7pm	28	29 Township Offices close at 12pm	30

Christmas Events Around Our Area

Saturday, December 2nd & Sunday, December 3rd

Christmas Open House at Moffat Mansion 12-4pm
Pictures with Santa, horse drawn carriage, crafts and carolers

Tuesday, December 12th

North Pocono High School Christmas Concert 7pm

Thursday, December 14th

Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Main Street Gazebo 6:30pm
Santa arriving by fire truck, bell choir (Moscow United Methodist Church), carol singing (Musical Dreams Studio) and light refreshments

Sunday, December 17th

Afternoon with Santa at Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Co. 2-4pm

December 26th, 27th and 28th

The Nutcracker Ballet at Marywood College 2pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, January 7th

N.P. Cultural Society's Russian Christmas in Moscow



Open from
Friday, Nov. 24th
through
Sunday, Dec. 24th
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(570) 466-5341

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Township offices are closed	2 Organizational & Monthly Meeting of the Board of Supervisors 7pm NPSD Back to School!	3 Planning Commission Organizational & Work Session 7pm Auditor's Meeting 7pm	4 5 "New Year's resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time." James Agate	6 Recycling 9-11am	
7 8 "MOTHER TIME: We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them." Hillary DePiano, New Year's Thieve		9 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	10	11 Organizational & Quarterly Meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board 7:30pm	12 13 "One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: to rise above the little things." John Burroughs	
14 VFW Post 5207 Auxiliary Breakfast 9-11:30am Adults \$6 / Kids \$3	15 Township offices are closed NPSD Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	18 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm	19	20 Recycling 9-11am
21 June Haffner	22	23	24	25 26 27 "In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future!" Mehmet Murat Ildan		
28 "Do not mind anything that anyone tells you about anyone else. Judge everyone and everything for yourself." Henry James	29	30 Board of Supervisors Work Session 7pm	31 Bicentennial Committee Meeting 7pm			

For Your Better Health...

The Power of Sleep

We generally understand that diet and exercise are important factors which keep diabetes and obesity at bay. However, it may be equally as important to get your proper sleep. In a study of 1,344 middle age and older adults who checked three or more of the following boxes: obese, high cholesterol, high triglycerides, high blood sugar, and high blood pressure. It was found that those who got less than six (6) hours of sleep per night had a greater risk of dying during the sixteen (16) year study period. In some instances, the risk of death was double that of people who slept six hours or more.

Winning the Belly Fat War

Not only does excess abdominal fat increase heart disease risk, but other studies suggest that it may increase the risk for breast cancer and other cancers as well. The biggest contributor to abdominal fat that we know is, of course, diet. Highly refined processed carbo-hydrates and sugars are associated with abdominal fat. Replace refined carbs and sugars with high fiber food including apples, whole wheat bread, and veggies like broccoli. Be sure to limit white foods, breads, pastas and potatoes.

Diabetes

About 90-95% of Americans diagnosed with diabetes have type 2 diabetes. It most often develops in middle-aged and older adults. It's often linked with obesity and physical inactivity. Type 2 diabetes develops when the body doesn't make enough insulin and doesn't efficiently use the insulin it makes (insulin resistant).

Am I at risk? Type 2 diabetes is increasing. This is because more people are obese, don't get enough physical activity and are getting older. However, younger people are developing diabetes at an alarming rate. This is probably because obesity and lack of physical activity are increasing problems for this group too.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Recycling 9-11am
				4	5	6
7	8	9	10	"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth." William W. Purkey		
11 VFW Post 5207 Auxiliary Breakfast 9-11:30am Adults \$6 / Kids \$3	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15 NPSD Early Dismissal Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm	16 Chinese New Year Begins	17 Recycling 9-11am
18	19 Township Offices are closed NPSD Closed President's Day	20 	21 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24 "Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action." Mother Teresa
25 "We look forward to the time when the power to love will replace the love of power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace." William Channing	26	27 Board of Supervisors Work Session 7pm	28 Bicentennial Committee Meeting 7pm			

Your Real Estate Taxes

The amount that you pay in real estate tax is dependent on two (2) primary factors; one being the assessed value of your real estate as determined by the county assessors office; the second factor being the amount of millage charged by your local municipality, county government and school district. There are three (3) separate taxes - local, county and school. The millage for each of the three divisions is established separately by the respective governing bodies. A mill in value amounts to one dollar (\$1.00) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed value. Therefore, if your home is assessed at twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) and your governmental agency (local, county or school) charges one (1) mill, you would pay one dollar for each thousand dollars of assessment or twenty dollars (\$20.00). In all cases, however, the established millage is more than one (1) mill. For example, if you live in Covington Township, you pay 10.25 mills for local (Covington) taxes; 38.80 mills for county taxes and 132 mills for school taxes. If you just take your school tax alone, you would be expected to pay one hundred thirty dollars (\$132.00) for each thousand dollars of assessment, thus, the school tax bill alone on a \$20,000.00 assessment would be \$2,640.00 (20 x 132).

It is important to note that most people who serve on local, county and school boards do not necessarily want to increase your taxes (millage rate), but, when their anticipated expenditures exceed anticipated revenue, they sometimes feel they have no alternative. However, in reality, there is another side to this issue and although some elected officials may find it more difficult than raising millage, it is a clear alternative. The alternative to raising taxes can simply be accomplished by reducing spending.

As a resident of your community, it is important that you express yourself directly to your elected representatives and encourage them to look carefully at reducing spending as a clear alternative to raising taxes. Remember, a yearly two (2) mill increase in your taxes results in a twenty (20) mill non-negotiable increase in your taxes over ten (10) years.

If you are upset with your taxes, you should consider contacting these officials who are responsible for setting them - township, county or school board.

Veteran's Corner

By Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Renna

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

VA CLAIMS

When you are ready to apply for VA disability compensation, there are a lot of things to consider.

The following are the first three things you need to know and do.

1. You must know what type of service you have had. Were you on title 10 active duty, title 32 active duty or completing reserve training. The type of service will dictate what benefits you are eligible for. It is important that you submit a DD214 with your application.
2. Collect as much evidence as you can to support your claim. Don't rely on the VA to gather all your medical records.
3. Stay informed. Regulations change from time to time. The latest information that I have, are a few videos that are available on www.youtube.com/disabledveterans or [facebook.com/DAV/videos](https://www.facebook.com/DAV/videos)

And remember:

Once a Soldier - Always a Soldier - A Soldier for life.

North Pocono Senior Center

OPEN Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am to 2 pm
~ for adults 55 and over ~

Located directly behind the Covington Police Department
on Route 435 in Daleville

If North Pocono School District is closed or delayed due to bad weather, the Senior Center will be closed.

Transportation and further information on our schedule of events can be obtained by calling (570) 843-6485

Activities include:

Bingo
Bingo dinner
Pinochle tournaments
Pinochle lessons
Red Hat Meetings
Dominoes and lessons
Holiday parties
Brunch



Clothes Closet

WHEN: Last Thursday of every month
TIME: 10am-4pm
WHERE: Daleville United Methodist Church
423 Dorantown Road, Covington Twp PA 18444
DETAILS: Free clothing available for men, women, and children.
* Light snacks will be available.
* Donation accepted of new or gently used, clean clothing on Monday's & Thursday's 7am-12pm.
* Emergency clothing, leave a message at (570) 842-6776



Christmas Jollies



What does Jack Frost like best about school?

Snow and Tell.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a dog?

Frostbite.

How does a sheep say "Merry Christmas"?
"Fleece Navidad!"

Where do snowmen keep their money?
In a snow bank.

What kind of bug hates Christmas?
A humbug.

What goes "oh, oh, oh"?
Santa walking backwards.

Why is it so cold at Christmas?
Because it's Decembrrrr.

Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor?
Because he was feeling crummy.

What does one snowman say to the other?
Do you smell carrots?

What does Tarzan sing at Christmas?
Jungle Bells.

Why did Santa get a ticket on Christmas Eve?
He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.

What do you get when you cross a bell with a skunk?
Jingle smells.

When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?
In the dictionary!

What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when the fire is lit?
Crisp Cringle.

What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?
Neither, candles always burn shorter.



COMMONLY ASKED LEGAL QUESTIONS

By Attorney John J. Mercuri

This edition will be in a slightly different format than past columns. Over the span of 36 years as a Magisterial District Judge, I estimate that I have heard well over 10,000 speeding cases. The common questions in all of these cases are: Were you speeding? Why were you speeding? Following are some of the answers that drivers have given to me in the Moscow Courtroom over the years.

- I took my car out of gear to save on gas (motorist clocked on radar at 85 miles per hour)
- I was trying to build up the RPMs to heat my car faster because it was a cold night.
- My girlfriend and I were getting a room at the Holiday Inn and we were in a hurry to get there (two cars pulled over simultaneously – speeding for love?)
- I know I was not speeding because I looked at my speedometer when my “trapshooter” went off. (radar detector)
- I know I wasn’t speeding because I always put my makeup on as I’m driving to work and I would never speed while I was putting on makeup.
- My car shimmies at anything below 80 MPH so I have to drive fast to be safe.
- I was blowing dirt out of my carburetor.
- I drive a Ford Pinto which has an exploding gas tank if I’m in a rear end collision, so I always do 75 to stay ahead of traffic.
- My rubber floor mat creeps up over the accelerator pedal (driver clocked at 100 MPH)
- I’m from Canada and I got confused with MPH and KPH.
- I was blow drying the car to get the water beads off after the carwash.
- I had to hurry because I was running out of gas.
- I could not have been driving 100 MPH because my speedometer only goes to 85.
- My brake pad fell off while I was trying to slow down.
- I want to thank the trooper for giving me this speeding ticket. My family keeps telling me that I need glasses, and after this speeding ticket I realized that I could not see my speedometer. (Driver produces a receipt at the hearing for his new pair of glasses.)

**ATTORNEY
JOHN J. MERCURI**
570-842-4574

*EXPERIENCE IN ALL TYPES
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**personal injury claims, trials, family
law, business law, real estate, title
insurance, wills and estates**

Help Wanted for the Zoning Hearing Board

The Covington Township Zoning Hearing Board is currently seeking interested individuals to fill an Alternate Member position of the Zoning Hearing Board.

Members of the Board have an opportunity to partake in an active civics lesson during review of applications. This position also gives individuals a chance to participate in making decisions that have a lasting impact on their community.

The Zoning Hearing Board meets approximately 5-6 times per year.

Applicants must reside in Covington Township.

All appointments are approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Interested individuals are asked to submit a letter of interest to:

Zoning Hearing Board
20 Moffat Drive
Covington Township PA 18444

"living and working in your community"



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"Promise Yourself..."

By Christian D. Larson

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud words but great deeds.

To live in faith that the whole world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you."

THINK CREMATION IS THE
SAME WHEREVER YOU GO?

Think again.

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(570) 343-0413
Corey Brian Strauch, Supervisor



of Daleville & Mount Pocono
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From all of your employees in Covington Township...

*We hope this Christmas
brings you
comfort,
joy,
happiness
and peace
that lasts throughout
the upcoming year!*

