

Richland Township

Established 1734

Fall 2023

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Richland Township participated in National Night Out, held on August 1, 2023. Our Chief and officers were out meeting the community and handing out Klondike ice cream bars to young and old alike. The ice cream was a hit and special thanks go out to BJs Wholesale Club located in Quakertown for their generous donation of 40 cases of ice cream! This is truly what community is all about.



Welcome Officer Thomas Ford!

On August 14, 2023, The Richland Township Police Department approved the hiring of Thomas Ford. Officer Ford was sworn in by Magisterial District Judge Lisa Gaier.



515 S. WEST END BOULEVARD, QUAKERTOWN, PA 18951
215-536-1969 215-536-5686

Proudly Supporting Our

Quakertown Community



A Guide to Supplemental Bird Feeding

By Barbara Beck (Richland Township Bird Town)

BIRD TOWN
PENNSYLVANIA



birdtownpa.org

In the last issue of the Richland Township Newsletter, Bird Town shared with you the importance of growing native plants on your property. Native plants support birds by providing them with nutritional seeds and berries, and they also provide birds with protein rich caterpillars for their young. As we move into the fall, native plants are a rich source of food for them both in the fall and winter months – if you don't deadhead your native flowers.

You may want to consider helping your backyard birds, and birds that will be migrating through your area on their way south, with supplemental food. Not only will you be helping your feathered neighbors, but watching birds at the feeder is a joyful hobby for many.

When it comes to feeding birds, you have many options both in feeder types and food and it all depends on the types of birds you want to attract. Placement of the feeder is also important. Audubon recommends that to avoid crowding, and to attract the greatest variety of species, provide table-like (platform feeders) for ground feeding birds, hopper or tube feeders, and suet feeders well off the ground for woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees. You don't have to spend a lot of money on a feeder, but the cost will go up as you get more elaborate say for squirrel proof feeders, or feeders that keep large birds like starlings out.

If you want to attract a variety of birds, try a variety of seeds in different feeders or buy a blend. Experiment. Many manufacturers market certain blends of seeds for birds such as for songbirds or finches. Blends are probably the best way to get started to see what the birds in your backyard like. Whole unsalted peanuts, and peanut pieces are loved by blue jays, woodpeckers, titmice, nuthatches, and chickadees.

By taking care of your backyard birds, you'll get hours of enjoyment and helping them during a time of year when food sources are not as plentiful. You may even consider joining Project Feeder Watch, a Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science project, where you monitor and record your backyard birds from November through April (feederwatch.org). For additional information visit the Township's website (www.richlandtownship.org) and look for Bird Town in our Park & Rec Department.



Platform Feeder



Tube Feeder



Suet

215-536-7000

Patio Court Motel
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Quakertown, PA 18951



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FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

QUAKERTOWN
FARMERS

MARKET

Quakertownfarmersmkt.com

Fall Leaf Collection

For our Fall Leaf Collection schedule and updates please check our website at www.richlandtownship.org

Please keep in mind that our schedule may be affected by weather or other factors.

Important Tips

- DO NOT place any other materials such as sticks, grass clippings, or yard waste with your leaves. These items clog the vacuum hose and cannot be collected. ONLY leaves will be collected, all other waste will be left behind.
- DO NOT park vehicles on or close to leaf piles. Hot mufflers and exhaust pipes may ignite the leaves and cause vehicle damage or loss. We cannot collect leaves that are under or too close to vehicles. We need room for our equipment to be able to get to the piles.
- A leaf drop-off area is available for all residents behind the salt shed at the Township Building.
- WE NO LONGER ACCEPT LEAVES IN PLASTIC BAGS AT THE DROP OFF BIN. Please dump bags out onto the pile and take the plastic bags with you. Leaves in paper bags are accepted.

Snow and Ice

Snow and ice conditions affect all of us at the same time. While we can't be everywhere immediately, we work very hard to keep the roads passable throughout the storm.

Important Safety Tips for Winter

- When snow is in the forecast, keep your cars off the roadways and park them in your driveways.
- Give plow trucks the right of way.
- When cleaning sidewalks and driveways, always throw the snow back into your yard.
- If you live on a two-lane street, wait until we have your street plowed back to the curb before cleaning out your driveway entrance.
- Remember, a snow emergency means all vehicles are prohibited from being parked on any Township street and may be towed at your expense, including boats, trailers, and campers.
- Please remove basketball nets from roadways and curb lines.



Advancing Trail Development—Enriching Suburban Living

In the Township, the momentum of trail development remains unwavering, presenting an evolving canvas of possibilities. Embracing trails for suburban projects unfolds as a dynamic solution, enhancing the lives of residents, promoting well-being, and nurturing sustainable urban growth. These pathways, thoughtfully developed for activities ranging from leisurely strolls to invigorating cycling, generate a profound sense of community spirit, simultaneously addressing the complexities that arise from suburban expansion.

These trails represent more than just physical avenues; they serve as conduits to improved health and an enriched connection to the environment. As suburban landscapes sprawl, a disconnect with nature often ensues. Trails, however, emerge as paths that allow individuals to traverse local ecosystems, embrace indigenous flora and fauna, bask in scenic vistas, and cultivate a bond with their surroundings.

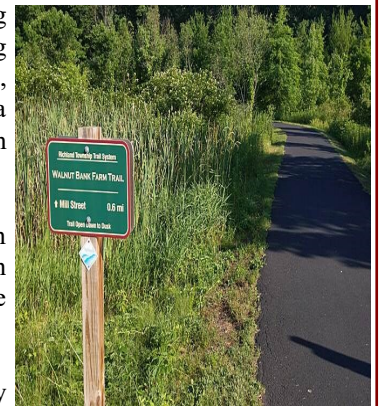
Moreover, these trails channel the course towards sustainable mobility alternatives. Secure walkway and cycling lanes alleviate the reliance on automobiles, thereby curbing emissions and alleviating traffic bottlenecks. This dual impact fosters a harmonious coexistence of man and nature.

The present juncture unveils progress through four distinct projects, each at varying stages of development and funding:

- Expanding 5th Street to the Hidden Ponds development
- A bridge to link the Fields of Creekview Trail with the Hunter's Crossing Trail.
- Creating a connection from Toll Gate Landing to Great Blue Heron Park and connection to Trumbauersville Elementary School.

Trail development signifies a commitment to an enhanced suburban experience. These trails help with improved health, community involvement, and connection to nature. Funding for these projects may come from a variety of sources including state and federal grants and private and non-profit donations.

Thomas Marino, Chair of the Richland Township Park and Recreation Board



Championing Accountability

By Rep. Craig Staats (R-Bucks)



Hello all. I want to use this article to provide an update on the recent activity in the House regarding the 2023-24 state budget. This was a budget process that was filled with frustrations and saw a lack of accountability from the Governor's office on the issue. I ended up voting no on this budget, and here are a few key reasons why.

Failure to Address Financial Pitfalls

This budget does not address the multiple financial pitfalls the state of Pennsylvania will face in the near future. Instead of addressing and dealing with our structural deficit that exists, this budget decides to use our existing surplus funds to "balance" our budget, dragging Pennsylvania closer to a deficit instead of the surpluses we've had in recent years. Financial accountability for our state is crucial and running toward a deficit does not help our state.

Veto of Lifeline Scholarships

In an original deal with the Governor, the Senate and Gov. Josh Shapiro agreed on a budget that would include \$100 million dollars for Lifeline Scholarships in Pennsylvania. Lifeline Scholarships allow children in underperforming schools an opportunity to choose their school; however, instead of holding himself accountable and upholding his promise, the Governor went back on his word and instead decided to line-item veto that \$100 million for Lifeline Scholarships.

I also voted against funding for the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University and Temple University this session for a couple of key reasons. Firstly, even though we would have increased their funding again, none of these institutions pledged to freeze their tuition for the upcoming school year. While Pitt and Penn State froze tuition for their satellite campuses, their tuition rates for main campus have only continued to rise.

At Pitt, tuition has increased over 19% in the last nine years for Pennsylvania students, and after this year's increase it will now cost over \$20,000 dollars for Pennsylvania residents to attend Pitt. That is also not including the 10% and 7% increases that are coming for student housing and meal plans, which is a separate charge from tuition. At Penn State, tuition at its main campus will go up 2% this year and next year for Pennsylvania residents, which would also make tuition at Penn State for Pennsylvania residents cost over \$20,000 dollars a year. Even Temple, which has frozen its tuition prices for the past two years, has decided to raise tuition by 4.2% for Pennsylvania students this year. These institutions are also exempt from Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know laws and are not held to the same level of accountability as the rest of our state universities. I want to make sure we get promises from Pitt, Penn State and Temple that they will be more transparent and that they will freeze tuition prices when we provide them with this funding. These provisions will only help our students and keep our state universities affordable for Pennsylvania students so they can continue to build their lives in this great state we call home.

Finally, I want to remind you about the services my office can provide for you. We are here to assist you with any state-related matters. Services include assistance with PennDOT paperwork, SEPTA Key Senior Fare Card applications (original and renewals), PACE and PACENET applications for seniors, property tax and rent rebate applications, state tax forms and several other state programs.

We're located at 10 S. Third St. in Quakertown. Give us a call at 215-536-1434 or visit our website, RepStaats.com/contact, to let us know how we can help you!

A Great Big Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors who Supported our Community!!

National Night Out

BJ's Wholesale Club

Community Day

Casey's Place

Gilmore & Associates

Patio Court Motel

Penn Community Bank

Penn Stainless Products

Tropical Smoothie

Township Times Newsletter

Emergency Systems Service Company

Richland Township Fire & Rescue Events

BINGO - Shelly Bingo is held every Tuesday

Doors open at 5 p.m. Games start at 6:45 p.m.

HALL RENTALS - Rent the hall for your next event

For more information call 215-536-7226

CHEESE STEAK GRAB & GO

Held once a month, Friday nights 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Check our website for dates

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Donations can be mailed to:

Richland Township Fire & Rescue

64 Shelly Rd, Quakertown PA 18951

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

Made to order, Call 215-536-7226

Ray's Tax Tips

Many taxpayers ask me about the Property Tax Rebate program available from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. This is a program that offers rebates on property tax payments to seniors aged 65 and older, widows and widowers aged 50 and older and qualified disabled person aged 18 and older. As with most programs there are other requirements, so I recommend you contact the Department of Revenue to determine your specific situation. Rebate application forms are available on the Department of Revenue website.

The law was recently changed for 2023 rebates to allow greater access to benefits. Eligibility, other than age, is primarily based on income. The limit on income was increased from \$35,000 to \$45,000 reflecting inflation and will now increase annually equal to the Consumer Price Index.

The amount of the potential payment to you has also increased to a maximum of \$1,000. If you will be applying for the rebate, please send both the Taxpayer Copy along with the Tax Collector Copy when paying your tax bill. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and I will return the Taxpayer Copy to you stamped PAID and signed. Please keep track of your receipt in your tax files.

The tax office is here to assist you anytime a property tax question comes up. My website RichlandTC.com offers other useful information, links to relevant websites and the opportunity to pay by credit/debit card or by eCheck.



RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Raymond "Skip" Goodnoe
Property Tax Collector
www.RichlandTC.com

P.O. Box 1346
Quakertown, PA 18951

Office: 215-529-5719
www.richlandtownship.org
Raymond@RichlandTC.com

Preservation Board

Preservation Board Preserves Another Farm with Natural Areas

by Kathleen Fedorocsko, Chairwoman of the Preservation Board



The Richland Township Land Preservation Board has been focused on the preservation of land in the Nockamixon/Haycock Conservation Landscape that contains the Quakertown Swamp. Heritage Conservancy has made protection of the Quakertown Swamp a priority, and we are now working with them to acquire easements on acreage to help protect the surrounding buffer of wetlands. In 2021, the Quakertown Swamp was recognized as an International Wetland of Distinction that merits protection.

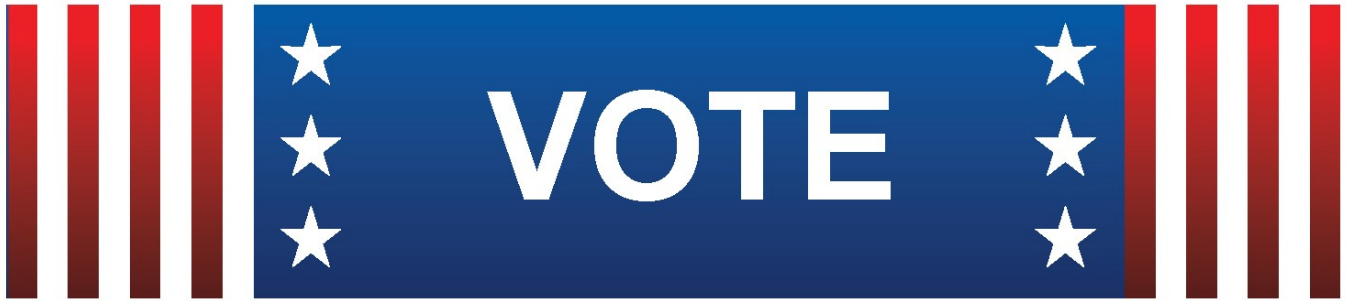
The Preservation Board has completed the process of preserving the second farm in this area through a conservation easement. It is a historic farm located partially within the Quakertown Swamp. With the guidance of Heritage Conservancy, a not-for-profit land conservation organization, Richland

Township received grant allocations through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). This funding has paid one-half of the easement value and protects 55 acres in this critical area.

Farmland, critical habitat and significant natural areas will be protected within this Conservation Landscape. Conservation Landscapes were established in 2011 when Ann F. Rhodes and Timothy A. Block of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania updated the Natural Areas Inventory of Bucks County. The Nockamixon/Haycock Conservation Landscape provides habitat for 27 species of reptiles and amphibians. Twenty species of plants that are tracked by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP 2010) have been found in the landscape. Quakertown Swamp is also designated as an Important Bird Area by Audubon of Pennsylvania. We are proud to have a part in protecting the habitat that is a home these species.

As well as preserving the valuable soils of the farmland, it is also our goal to protect the riparian corridors - the stream banks and associated lands - of the Upper Tohickon Creek and its tributaries that in turn protects ecological functions like ground water recharge, waste decomposition and biodiversity conservation. This farm contains the Bog Run tributary of the Upper Tohickon Creek, a vital part of our watershed.

The Preservation Board has protected almost 1,400 acres of open space fee simple and easement purchases, as well as several generous donations from landowners. All open space purchases and easements are protected *in perpetuity* through deed restriction and are made possible through the generosity and foresight of the property owners.



Primary Election Day - November 7, 2023

Polls Open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Richland's Four Voting Precincts & Polling Places

Richland 1

Richland Elementary School
Fairview Avenue

If you live south of Raub Road and east of Route 309, you will cast your ballots at the Richland Elementary School just off Route 313.

Richland 2

Municipal Building
California Road

If you live in the northeast section of the Township, north of Raub Road and east of the railroad tracks, you will cast your ballot at the Richland Township Municipal Building located on California Road.

Richland 3

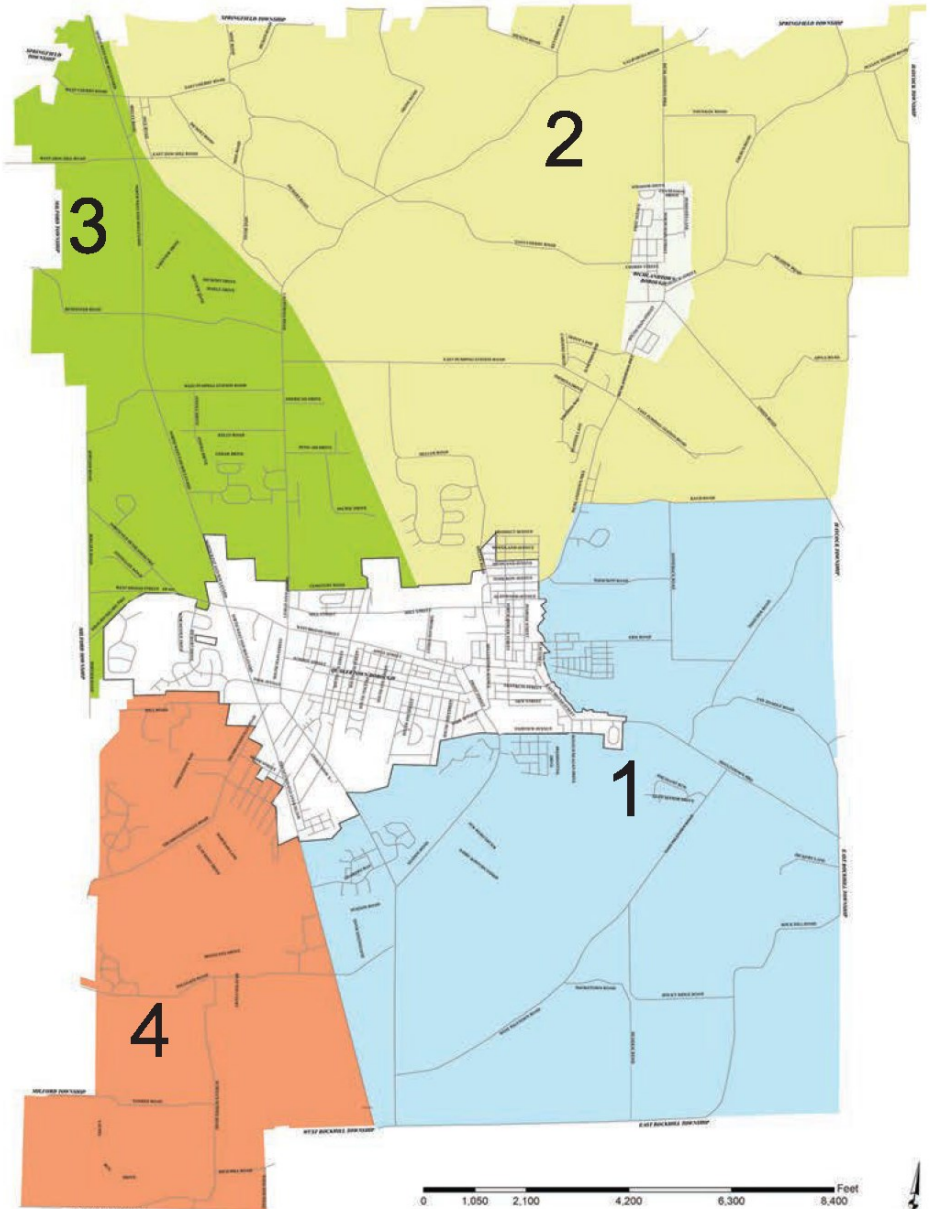
Grace Bible Fellowship Church
N. Old Bethlehem Pike

If you live in the northwest section, west of the Railroad Tracks and north of Cemetery Road and Milford Square Pike, you will cast your ballot at Grace Bible Fellowship Church on N. Old Bethlehem Pike near Stonegate Road.

Richland 4

First Church of Brethren
Trumbauersville Road

If you live in the southwest portion of the Township, south of Mill Road and west of Route 309, you will cast your ballot at First Church of the Brethren, 455 Trumbauersville Road.



Township Pavilions



Have you considered renting on of the Township Pavilions? Richland Township offers two great pavilions. Robert O. Keller Park and The Great Blue Heron

The cost to rent the pavilion is \$50 plus a \$25 refundable deposit. Cost includes electric.

Please contact the Township to check pavilion availability. Give us a call at 215-536-4066

Richland Township Upcoming Events

Save the Dates

October

Fall Leaf Collection Schedule begins

October 28th -

Bucks County Hazardous Waste Collection at Strayer Middle School

October 28th -

Drug Takeback at Richland Township Police Department

November 4th -

Shred Event at Richland Township Police Department

Please check our website for exact dates, times, and locations.

www.richlandtownship.org



SENATOR JARRETT COLEMAN

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Sign up for weekly newsletters at [SenatorColeman.com/eNewsletters](https://www.SenatorColeman.com/eNewsletters)
Email me at JColeman@PaSen.Gov

Visit our Bucks County office for help with:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications.
- PACE/PACENET prescription medication programs for senior citizens.
- Programs and services tailored to meet the unique needs of veterans.
- PennDOT driver and vehicle services.
- Any other state government-related needs.



Bucks County Office: 314 West Broad Street, Room 102, Quakertown, PA 18951 • (267) 551-3744

The Richland Historical Society asks for Community Help: SOS Save Our School

From the members of the Richland (One-Room School) Historical Society

For the past few months, a group of local residents has been working to revive the Richland Township (One-Room School) Historical Society. All are former or new members of the Society and would like to reorganize it after the Pandemic led to a shut-down for the past several years. The Society meets on the grounds of the Shelly One-Room Schoolhouse, a one-room school built by Richland Township in 1885, one of nine schoolhouses built by the township. For 72 years, hundreds of children were educated there and went on to build our community.

It took the work of dedicated teachers and residents to save this school when the one-room schools were shuttered in 1957 with consolidation of the school district. They met with the Richland Township School Board to purchase the Shelly School for \$1,388. These people recognized how important it was to preserve this chapter in the educational system in Pennsylvania. The Richland Historical Society was created then and they received their charter in 1959. The Society incorporated and became a 501(c)3 (non-profit) organization. With community support that included contributions from members, local businesses and grants, the Society was able to pay off their mortgage and offer programs to the community, as well as purchase the grain barn next door for a future museum. Tours were also available to students from local schools. The tours explained what a day in the one-room school was like with one teacher and grades 1-8 together. Homecoming was held yearly to bring the former students together again.

The Shelly Schoolhouse looks the same as it did in 1885, the year it was built, with desks for 40 students, blackboards, a pump organ and a potbellied stove for heat. It is a step back in time for sure. It is one of a handful of schoolhouses left, and it is the only fully restored one-room school in Upper Bucks County. The Shelly Schoolhouse is recognized as both a national and local treasure, having been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011, and having been listed on the Bucks County Register for Historical Places.

Once again, as in the past, we ask for community help and support with the reformation of the Society. We need your financial help and volunteer time to get things running again as they were. Consider becoming a member or making a donation to help the Richland Historical Society; there are a lot of things to volunteer to help with. It's time to look for people who would like to join the Historical Society and who are interested in working on projects to identify and protect the school's inventory, organize collections, and to also do some outdoor maintenance. Help is also needed with preserving the local historical documents, photos and artifacts, and any knowledge that you have would be appreciated. One of our big projects this year will be the restoration of the girls' necessary house that is part of the original schoolyard.

The Society currently meets on the third Sunday of every month at 2 PM through December.

For information contact: Sandy Shelly at 215-536-3711 or Kathy Fedorocsko 215-538-7059 and leave a message.



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Health Center at Richland Township

Lehigh Valley Health Network



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Health Center at Richland Township

320 W. Pumping Station Road, Quakertown

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LVHN.org/RichlandTownship

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- Family Medicine
- HNL Lab Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
- Pediatrics

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From the Zoning Office Of Rich Brittingham

Developments Under Consideration

1. **Richland Walk (Better Living Homes)**
B5 Performance Standard Subdivision, 104 townhome units—
53+ acres south side of E. Pumping Station Rd
2. **Greenway Development-Front Gate Community**
5 Mid-rise Buildings, 180 units (age targeted) plus 91
townhomes for a total of 278 units 46.26 acres located along
Station Rd behind Q-mart
3. **Trinity Homes (Steeple Run)**
38 Single Family
21.1 acres located on the north side of E. Paletown Rd

Developments Under Construction

1. **Reserve at Woodside Creek**
74 Single Family-Phase I-36 & Phase II-39
101.7 acres located on the south side of Paletown Rd & Rocky
Ridge Rd
2. **Fonthill Court**
59 Townhome Units
11.061 acres located along California Rd

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Projects Under Construction

1. **GBG Holdings, LLC**
3.6 acres located at 1466 N West End Blvd (SR 309)
E20 Truck Sales Use Proposed 5,000 SF Building
2. **Heller Road Associates, LLC**
7.8 acres located along the west side of Heller Rd
G3 Warehouse Use Proposed 100,984 SF Building

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Projects Under Construction

1. **GBG Holdings, LLC**
3.6 acres located at 1466 N West End Blvd (SR 309)
E20 Truck Sales Use Proposed 5,000 SF Building
2. **Heller Road Associates, LLC**
7.8 acres located along the west side of Heller Rd
G3 Warehouse Use Proposed 100,984 SF Building
3. **Quaker Industrial Commons**
3.93 acres located on north side of Kelly Rd
G17 Flex Building Proposed 26,000 SF Building

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Projects Under Consideration

1. **Bible Baptist Church**
20.9 acres located on Reservoir & California Rd
C1 Place of Worship
2. **MRP Industrial NE, LLC**
58.64 acres located at the southeastern corner of Pumping
Station Rd and Heller Rd
G3 Warehouse Use Proposed 209,000 SF Building
3. **Olympus Pines, LLC**
1.938 acres located at southwest corner of Franklin Ln and
5 West End Blvd (Route 309)
E17 Car Wash Use (Tommy's Express)
4. **PNK P4 LLC**
12.29 acres southwest corner of West Pumping Station Rd &
O'Neill Dr
G3 Warehouse Use Proposed 173,600 SF Building
5. **Richland Tracts-Tollgate Road**
62.32 acres southwest corner of Tollgate Rd and
S West End Blvd
G3 Warehouse Use Proposed 649,230 SF Building

Permits are required for:

- Signage
- Well drilling
- Change of Use of Occupancy
- Construction of a new building
- Structural alterations or repairs
- Moving or relocating a building
- Demolition, razing (*Ordinance #191*)
- Plumbing fixtures, installed or replaced
- Adding new structures, additions, or dwelling units
- Earth disturbance over 1,000 sq. ft. (*Ordinance #210*)
- Sheds, fences, pools, concrete/paver patios, parking lots & driveways



All applications for building and zoning permits can be found on our website at www.richlandtownship.org



Richland Township

1328 California Rd, Suite A
Quakertown PA 18951
215-536-4066

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Public Works Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

www.richlandtownship.org

www.facebook.com/richlandtownshipbuckscounty/



Offices Closed:

November 7th - Election Day

November 23rd & 24th - Thanksgiving

December 22th & 25th - Christmas

January 1st - New Year's Day

**MAILING PANEL
NO CONTENT INSIDE THIS BOX**

Richland Township Officials

Tim Arnold—Chair

Kathie Doyle—Vice Chair

Chris Vanelli—Member

Leslie Huhn—Township Manager

Richard Ficco, Sr.—Police Chief

Rich Brittingham—Asst. Township
Manager/Zoning Officer

Scott Ambron—Code Enforcement Officer

James Benner—Roadmaster

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	Dial 9-1-1
Police Department	215-536-9500
Administrative Offices	215-536-4066
Water Authority	215-536-4733
Bucks County Water & Sewer	215-343-2538

2023 Monthly Meetings

(check website for exact dates)

Board of Supervisors

2nd Monday - 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Park & Recreation Board & Trails

4th Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Water Authority

2nd Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

Preservation Board

2nd Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

(Meetings are advertised as needed)