

A Message from the Manager

Holiday Safety

by Ted Locker

Dear Residents,

Skippack Happenings

By the time you receive this newsletter, the seemingly never ending heat wave that was the summer of 2012 will be a remote memory and you will be enjoying the Indian summer as we move into Fall.

Message

With Fall comes the Township budget season. Our schedule of the budget meeting will be posted on the Township website and advertised in the local paper. The meeting is open to the public; your input is welcomed and appreciated.

The next time you are visiting Skippack Village take the time and enjoy the picturesque new banners in the village. Each banner represents a slice of Skippack, there are three different scenes. "Welcome to Skippack," "Skippack Township" and "Skippack Village." Each banner signifies a location in the Township. See if you could place each item on the banner to the location in the Township! The Township would welcome ideas for further banner content. Call the Township for information.

Lastly, as the holidays approach, be mindful of other drivers, people tend to get impatient. Please drive carefully, especially during bad weather. State law requires that when your windshield wipers are going, your headlights should be on.



Eheodose

Locker Jr.

Skippack Township Manager tedl@skippacktownship.org
610.454.0909



Radio City NYC

Township office will be closed on the following dates:

November 22nd & 23rd

Thanksgiving Holiday

December 25th

Christmas Holiday

January 1, 2013

Happy New Year

FALL/WINTER 2012

MEETINGS & EVENTS October

Monday, October 8th

Park Board Meeting, 7pm Columbus Day - Office closed

Wednesday, October 10th

Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7:30pm

Monday, October 15th

Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30pm

November

Monday, November 12th

Park Board Meeting, 7pm Veteran's Day - Office closed

Wednesday, November 14th

Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7:30pm

Monday, November 19th

Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30pm

December

Monday, December 10th Park Board Meeting, 7pm

Wednesday, December 12th

Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7:30pm

Monday, December 17th

Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30pm

VOTER ID LAW Be prepared to vote on November 6th

YOU MUST PRESENT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS OF PHOTO ID WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR POLL TO VOTE:

CONTENT FOR THE VOTER ID ARTICLE,

- A PA driver's license currently valid or expired less than 12 months.
- A currently valid ID issued by a PA university, college, seminary, community college or two-year college to students, faculty, employees and alumni. Exp IDs will not be accepted.

FREE PHOTO ID

If you do not have any of the accept you may get one FREE OF CHARGE Licensing Center. This ID will be valid only. To obtain your free photo ID car PennDOT Photo Licensing Center wit

- SOCIAL SECURITY CARD
- ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS: Birth Certificate with raised seal, Valid p of Naturalization, Certificate of US
- TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCY such as lease agreements, current utility documents, W-2 form, tax records (cell phone bills are not acceptable)
- SIGNED OATH / AFFIRMATION that the voter does not possess Voter ID (form is available at center or online)
- COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR ID (form DL-54, available at center or online)

retired US military ID, including the PA National Guard. A designation of indefinite expiration will be accepted. AFTER SUBMISSION OF NEWSLETTER,

A currently valid active duty or A currently valid military dependent's ID. Expired IDs will not

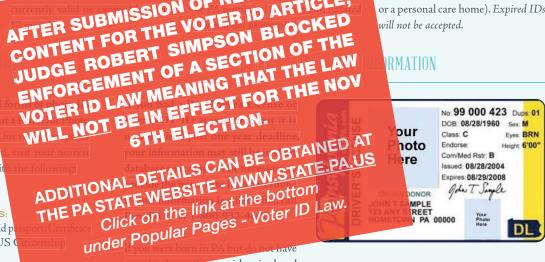
A currently valid ID issued by a PA care facility (such as a long-term care nursing facility, assisted living residence

A currently valid US passport.

Expired passports will not be accepted.

or a personal care home). Expired IDs will not be accepted.

RMATION



incate with raised seal,

Click on the link at the bottom

you can go to a PennDOT Photo Licensing Center and fill out Form HD01564F (Request for Certification for Birth Record for Voter ID Purposes Only) and they will forward the request to the PA Department of Health to certify your birth record. This process will take 10 days and is FREE OF CHARGE.

To locate your nearest PennDOT Photo Licensing Center, you may call 1-800-932-4600, or visit their website at www.dmv.state.pa.us.

DISTRICT

Trinity UCC Church 2009 Church Road

DISTRICT 2

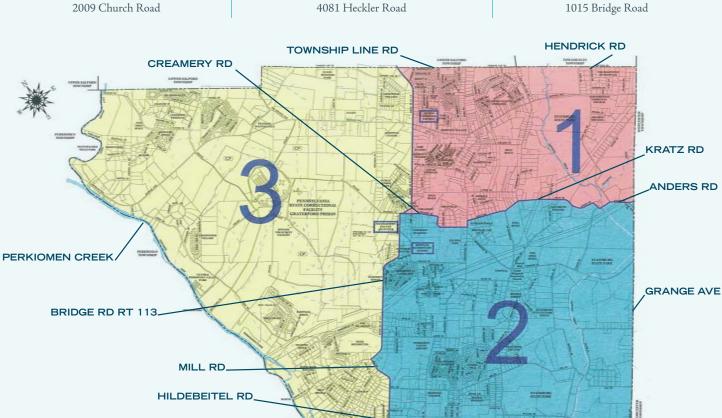
POLLING LOCATIONS

Be prepared to vote on November 6th

Skippack Elementary School 4081 Heckler Road

DISTRICT 3

Montgomery County 4H Center



TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

MAINTAIN YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

DON'T LEAVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON UNATTENDED!

Use only nonflammable decorations. All decorations should be nonflammable or flameretardant and placed away from heat vents.

DO NOT OVERLOAD **ELECTRICAL OUTLETS**

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires — they should not be warm to the touch.

AVOID USING LIT CANDLES

If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

NEVER PUT LIT

CANDLES ON A TREE

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

NEVER PUT WRAPPING PAPER IN THE FIREPLACE

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

WATER THAT TREE

If your household, as those of more than 33 million other American homes, includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart this suggestion: Keep the tree watered. Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in six deaths, twenty-five injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage. Typically shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start free fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem, dry and neglected trees can be.

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTERS

If you intend to vote by way of absentee ballot, you will be able to provide either the last 4 digits of your SS#, or your driver's license/PennDOT ID# as proof of identification on the absentee application. If you cannot provide either of these items, you must enclose a photocopy of one of the acceptable IDs listed above with your absentee request.

Qualified absentee voters in the US military (and their dependents), as well as other US citizens living abroad, are exempt from having to provide proof of their identity with their absentee ballot applications.

VOTER ID CONTACT INFO

Montgomery County Voter Services

PO Box 311, Norristown, PA 19404

VOTER REGISTRATION

610.278.3280

ELECTION BOARD

610.278.3275

www.montcopa.org/voterservices

for polling location questions 610.454.0909

TOWNSHIP LINE RD

Skippack Township MINUTEMAN PRESS



Hidden in the center of Montgomery County is a program for youth that many people are not acquainted with. It is called the 4H program. It is not

that 4H wants to be hidden, however, people associate it with farm animals only or rural areas, which could not be further from the truth! Maybe you have passed or stopped at the 4H Fair which is held annually at the 4H Center in Creamery. If not, make sure next August you stop by for a great experience. You will not only see the projects that 4H youth have been working on for the year, but the public is invited to enter projects of their own in open classes. So, what exactly is 4H today in 2012 as we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of its existence in Pennsylvania?

4H is an organization for young people who want to learn and have fun. Through a variety of 4H clubs and project experiences, Montgomery County boys and girls "learn by doing," make new friends and participate in activities on the local, county, state and national levels. Anyone 8-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year may join 4H.

4H members, guided by adult and team member volunteers, choose their own projects and set their own goals. Leaders help organize club programs and teach projects. 4H projects are written guides that give information on specific topics such as woodworking, cooking, archery, air rifle, rocketry, gardening, sewing, horses, pet care, leadership, beekeeping,

> alpacas, model horses, herpetology, Seeing Eye puppy, livestock, rabbits, guinea pigs, poultry, careers, Cloverbuds and much more!

> Other 4H opportunities include field trips, exhibits, community service projects, day camps, competitive events, conferences, recreational activities, teen events, international exchange programs, plus citizenship and leadership development programs.

> 4H is administered by Penn State Extension with county, state and federal support. 4H is also assisted locally by individuals, organizations and businesses. There is a \$10 per year educational assessment fee as well as \$1.00 fee for club insurance coverage. Scholarships are available based on need.

> The Penn State Extension office is not only home to the 4H program, but many other programs that serve the residents of Montgomery County. Visit our website: http://extension.psu.edu/montgomery for information on agriculture, horticulture, the

Master Gardener program, nutrition, forestry, youth at risk and a wide variety of other topics. Get to know 4H and Penn State Extension!



by Mary Beth LaBelle

It has been 9 months since the new Board of Supervisors started working together as a team, we have made some exciting changes with more to come! Starting with this newsletter and electric signs, Skippack is working very hard to improve our communication with our residents. We want to make sure that everyone understands the opportunities that our township has to offer. Improvements have been made at the township offices by providing free wireless to all in the building. In order to stay technically current, we are working on our IT plan so that information at the township is readily available while remaining secure. We have upgraded township office desktops and infrastructure, including the implementation of a document management application, DocStar, which allows for information to be scanned and stored in an offsite facility.

The meeting room has been updated as well and now displays collages of all of the projects the township has accomplished in the past 10 years. Come join us at our regular monthly meeting and see the growth of the township as well as the good work by Holcombe Graphics. As for our Parks, we have several new Park Board members: Dale Tycka, Diane Fisher and Robert Battisto. As Palmer Park continues to thrive, Hallman Grove has a Picnic Pavilion that was donated by the Lions club along with a new comfort station. In the next several months, we have a complete redesign of Church Road Park planned. We will also be continuing to expand our popular trail system by adding trails to the South West corner of Skippack with the hopes of linking from Township-Line Road over to Skippack Village with our current trails. Other new board appointments are: Paul Smith to the Sewer Authority and Gerald Rader to the Planning commission. We will have an opening on the Zoning Hearing board to replace Fiorindo Vagnozzi when he leaves the area in November.

We have been looking to procure open space as properties come available This year we had the opportunity to work with the owners to acquire the Edmondson Property. This property has been beautifully maintained by the Edmondson family. It is over 30 acres of the highest points in Skippack Township. Biltmore Estate is slowing coming together with the completion of the Pocket Park and trail systems through that development. The Home Owners Association has been working closely with the township to make sure all improvements go as planned.

Our summer events were outstanding as we partnered with the Merchants of Skippack and MDI. For the first time all 5 Supervisors were in the 4th of July Parade. The summer 4th party was the largest ever and parking went smoothly as we hired an outside firm to manage this for the township. The 4H Fair had Mary Beth LaBelle winning the goat milking contest over Matt Bradford and Josh Shapiro. Skippack Village continues to see success with 1st Fridays and we will continue to work with the Village to enhance our winter decor. Skippack continues to support the youth in our township by partnering with several students for both college and high school internships.

As your Board of Supervisors, we want to thank everyone who has come together to make our town a great place to live. We are proud of Skippack and remain

committed to our small town appeal while providing growth appropriate for the 21st century. Skippack truly is a great place to live, grow and share!



popular trail system by dding trails to the South West corner of Skippack over to Skippack Village.

HORTICULTURE 4H SCHOOL ENRICHMENT Penn State Extension 1015 Bridge Road, Suite H Collegeville, PA 19426 Phone 610-489-4315 Direct Dial 267-218-0292 Web extension.psu.edu/ montgomery Facebook PSU Horticulture Montgomery County

HAPPENINGS IN SKIPPACK VILLAGE

OCTOBER 13TH 2nd Annual Winetober Fest

Please call Tara at Tara's Country Cottage

1pm to 6pm

at 610-584-1155 for more information.

OCTOBER 20TH Children's Halloween Parade

Beginning at Hotel Fiesole at 10am & ending at Mal's Diner with treats. Must

register at Mal's Diner. For more info please call 610-584-0900. Rain date October 27th

OCTOBER 21ST Skippack International Car Show

11am to 5pm.

Activities include: Car rallies, food, beer, cartoon characters and face painting for the kids. Registration begins at Hotel Fiesole. Call MDI for information 610-584-6004.

NOVEMBER 23RD

Lighting of the Village Tree

Festivities begin at 6pm in the Floral & Hardy Complex.

NOVEMBER 23RD - DECEMBER 21ST luminaire Nites

Participating shops open until 9pm for evening shopping on Wednesdays and Fridays. Village aglow with candlelight.

Santa visits the Fire House

DECEMBER 14TH

6pm to 8pm

DECEMBER 15TH

10am to 1pm

More information on Skippack Fire House events, call 610-584-9995.

www.skippackvillageonline.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED TAX QUESTIONS

WHEN WILL THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY/ SKIPPACK TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE TAX BILL

March 1st of each year

BE MAILED?

WHEN WILL THE PERKIOMEN VALLEY SCHOOL **REAL ESTATE TAX BILL BE MAILED?**

July 1st of each year

WHEN WILL MY PERKIOMEN VALLEY SCHOOL PER CAPITA TAX BILL BE MAILED?

July 1st of each year

WHAT IS THE PER CAPITA TAX?

The Per Capita Tax is a personal tax (head tax) assessed against every resident over the age of 18 in The Perkiomen Valley School District. Exoneration from the Per Capita Tax may be granted by filing a form with the tax office within 90 days of the date of the bill for the following reasons: Full-time student, totally disabled, full time member of the Armed Services or Public Assistance.

IF MY TAXES ARE ESCROWED IN MY MORTGAGE, WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE TAX BILLS WHEN I RECEIVE THEM?

Please feel free to contact me at 610-287-3124 and I will be happy to assist you

Laurie Augustine, Skippack Township Tax Collector

You should always forward the Real Estate tax bills to your mortgage company unless your mortgage company tells you differently. Some mortgage companies pick up the tax amounts electronically. Do not forward the Per Capita bill to your mortgage; it is a personal tax.

WHAT FORMS OF PAYMENT DO YOU ACCEPT?

Personal checks, money orders, cashier checks and cash. Sorry, no credit cards.

IF I DID NOT RECEIVE MY TAX BILL. WHO SHOULD LCALL?

Laurie Augustine, Tax Collector, 610-287-3124. A copy will be mailed the same day.

WHO COLLECTS THE EARNED INCOME TAX (LOCAL TAX)?

1.65% of your gross wages

Skippack Township MINUTEMAN PRESS 3

Skippack Township MINUTEMAN PRESS

vehicle for a school bus with red lights activated hile meeting, overtaking

A Message from the State Police

A new school year has begun, and that means that we are sharing the road with an increased number of school buses that are loading and unloading school children. To keep our children safe while operating your vehicles, you are reminded to abide by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, section 3345 (a) relating to Meeting or Overtaking a School Bus. While operating your vehicle, please maintain the required stopping distance of ten (10) feet of a stopped school bus with its red signal lights activated. Similarly, a driver may not proceed until the flashing red lights are no longer activated. Drivers must stop their vehicle for a school bus with red lights activated while meeting, overtaking, and also at intersections. Even though children may have discharged safely from the school bus, be aware of children re-entering the roadway. Therefore, maintain caution while passing bus stops and while traveling through residential neighborhoods.

Halloween is quickly approaching. Motorists are reminded to be mindful of 'Trick-or-Treaters' who, with the excitement of Halloween, may forget their pedestrian safety rules. Parents are urged to place reflective tape on their children's costumes so that they can be clearly seen while walking. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children with flashlights on Halloween night, and not permit them to walk alone or within the roadway. Prior to your children eating their candy, please examine the candy. While 'Trick-or Treating, please respect the property of others, so that everyone may have a safe and happy Halloween.

Holiday travel increases on our roadways as the winter months approach. Safety on the roadway must be of one's highest priority. Remember to always wear a seatbelt, and to secure children in the appropriate child safety seats. Check your vehicle's tires and fluid levels before heading out to avoid breakdowns with your loved ones on board. Be cognizant of everything around you, and heed other drivers who may be impatient, thoughtless, or who may make sudden moves without warning.

Lastly, remember to never Drink and Drive, and to utilize a designated driver. Please also be a friend to others and not permit them to get behind the wheel after imbibing. Above all, please enjoy the Fall/Winter Seasons, and make all of the good times to come safe ones as well.

Pennsylvania Vehicle Code

STATE REP. MATT BRADFORD Announces Texting WHILE DRIVING BAN

As your State Representative, I am always happy to communicate regarding the issues affecting our community. Therefore, after years of debate, I am pleased to announce that a texting while driving ban has recently been enacted in Pennsylvania. Under the new law, which is now in effect, texting while driving is a primary offense, which means that police can pull over motorists simple for engaging in such activity. Texting under the law is defined to include anything from a text message, instant message, electronic mail or any other written communication composed or received on an interactive wireless device. The penalty for violation is \$50, but will not add points to the driver's record. While not perfect, I believe that this represents a crucial first step in making our roads and families more safe. As always, if you have any questions about this or any other state-related issue please contact my legislative office in Cedars at the intersection of Skippack Pike and Bustard Road at 610.222.3490 or email me at repbradford@pahouse.net.





HELP US PROTECT YOU & YOUR NEIGHBOR

WHEN IT SNOWS, MAKE SURE YOUR FIRE HYDRANT STAYS CLEAR.

As winter approaches many people concentrate on preparing for the onslaught from Mother Nature and the joys associated with winter. As this past year showed, snow is an unavoidable occurrence in this region.

When you are out clearing your driveway and sidewalk also remember to clear the snow away from the fire hydrants. Not only will this benefit you and your neighbors should a fire would occur, it is the law.

EMERGENCY ACCESS ROADS ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT CLEAR.

Do you have an emergency access road on your property or abutting your property? It is the responsibility of the property owner, landlord or association to maintain the fire department access road in a clear and passable

The fire department access road shall not be obstructed in any way, including by snow or vehicles. These roadways provide a second access point to your home and business in an emergency. Do your part to maintain the required access roadways.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Squirrel Hill Road

(from Martha Lane to Skippack Pike)

Kratz Road

(from Anders Road to Collegeville Road)

Miller Road

(from Collegeville Road to Evansburg Road)

Your Township at Work for You!



Have you been to the Cholet Farm lately? If you've ever taken the Skippack Trail into the Village, chances are that just past Creamery Road you've noticed a nice open field with a small pond and, amongst the mature trees, a historic farmhouse and barn. The 24 acres comprising this property are known as the Cholet Farm and they are part of the Township's growing network of preserved open space.

Since the Township's acquisition of the property in 2006, its use has remained largely passive, with the notable exception of the Skippack Historical Society's annual Tractor Show every spring. This year, the Parks and Recreation Board has taken on an initiative to introduce this wonderful space to more people in our community who, until now, may not even be aware of its existence.

We invite all to join us on Saturday, October 27th for hay rides, a "pumpkin hunt" and the opportunity to learn more about this historic farm. By learning a few key facts about the farm, participants will earn entrance to the pumpkin patch, where they can find a great pumpkin to bring home for their own fall decorations. Visitors can also walk through the barn and see the results of Ben Webb's and the Skippack Historical Society's hard work to maintain and restore the farm's structures.



This free event will be held rain or shine from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Entrance to the pumpkin patch will be on a "first come, first served" basis and pumpkin quantities are limited. Parking for the event will be located just down Creamery Road at Palmer Park, from which participants can either walk to the farm, or catch a ride on the next hay wagon. We hope to see you there!

BE PREPARED FOR SNOW! A Message from the Road Superintendent

Dear Residents.

Another winter season is upon us and who knows what weather will bring. Hopefully nothing too hard to handle.

The Road Department is responsible for clearing township roads of snow and ice. We do our best to keep the roads open for emergency vehicles and the traveling public. A few things that help our efforts are keeping trash and recycling containers, portable basketball and hockey nets, etc. out of roadways. Also, parking in driveways is a great help. We do appreciate your efforts.

If you can stay off the roads during storms, please do. If a roadway is closed, please do not move the barricades or drive around them! The road is closed for safety reasons.

Thank you and have a safe and happy winter



Excess salt and other deicing chemicals can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies.

This winter, you can help by following these environmentally-friendly snow removal practices:

WINTER DE-ICING TIPS

Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for deicing chemicals like rock salt.

Shovel snow onto permeable surfaces including gently sloping and level landscape and grassy areas so as the snow melts it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.

If you must use deicing chemicals, follow these suggestions...

- Control application of chemical deicers and avoid over application.
- Limit chemical applications near environmentallysensitive areas including springs, streams, ponds, wetlands and water supply areas and sensitive landscape and vegetation
- Sand and sawdust can be used as an environmentally-

friendly alternative to commonly used salt products.

- Use salt substitutes that are less harmful including Calcium Chloride (CaCl2) and Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA).
- For larger areas, apply salt as a brine solution to prevent drift off of paved surfaces.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams
- Also, a pre-caution note: Don't forget, many of the deicing materials can be harmful to your pets.
- Please keep all cars parked in driveways (especially in Wyethburn) or any area where the streets are very difficult to maneuver the snow removal equipment.

- Do not plow or shovel snow into the street, it just makes it more difficult to clear away the snow
- Beware of where you pile the shoveled snow. Don't block your neighbors or your view of oncoming traffic.
- If you have a hydrant on your property, please shovel the snow away. The cleared area will be needed in an emergency. Rescue personnel have no time to clear snow to fight a fire or rescue a life!
- The township contractor will make every effort to keep the streets clear and safe, but your help is needed too.
- As the snow melts if you are a near a storm drain please try to clear them so the water can flow freely to the



Jeanene Friel Franco D'Angelo Paul Fox Pre-Sort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Southeastern, PA
permit no. 50

Where in Skippack Township can I take my yardwaste?

Barnside Farm Composting Facility on Haldeman Road in Lower Salford Township provides a drop off site for leaves, grass and yard waste. They can be contacted at 610-287-8880 with any questions.

Radio City Christmas Show NYC

Trips are being sponsored in conjunction with Upper Providence, Skippack and Worcester Township Parks and Recreation Departments. Get in the Holiday Spirit by spending a day in the beautifully decorated New York City. You will have some time to check out all the holiday decorations and see the "Christmas Spectacular Show with the World Famous Rockettes."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

\$110 Residents / \$120 Non-Residents 11am show Depart Skippack area at 7:45am Depart NYC 4:30pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

\$110 Residents / \$120 Non-Residents 11am show Depart Skippack area at 7:45am Depart NYC 4:30pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

\$110 Residents / \$120 Non-Residents 2pm show

Depart Skippack area at 8:00am Depart NYC 5:00pm

REFUND POLICY: No refunds for "No Shows" day of trip. Full refund will be issued if trip is canceled. Cancellations 30 days in advance, will receive a refund minus \$10 administration fee as long as a seat replacement is found.

PICK-UP LOCATIONS: Exact bus pick-up locations and times will be determined (1) one week prior to trip and confirmed to all participants with a phone call or via e-mail.

Discount Ski Tickets

Skippack Township offers cool savings on discount ski tickets! These ski lift tickets may be purchased at the Township Building Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm. Cash, Visa and MasterCard are accepted to purchase tickets. No personal checks, refunds or exchanges. Tickets will be available mid-December through March. Call ahead to confirm availability.

SKI AREAS INCLUDE:

Bear Creek
Big Boulder / Jack Frost
Blue Mountain
Camelback



Discount Movie Tickets

Skippack Township offers discount tickets to the **Movie Tavern** and **Regal Entertainment Group** theatres in our area. These ticket vouchers may be purchased at the Township Building, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm. Cash, Visa and MasterCard are accepted to purchase tickets. No personal checks, refunds or exchanges.

Movie Tavern tickets: \$8.50 | Regal Entertainment Group tickets: \$7.50*



*Regal Entertainment Group tickets are not valid during the first 12 days of "selected" new release films. \$1.50 upgrade fee may be paid at the box office for admission to restricted films. Participating Regal Entertainment Group theatres include United Artists, Regal Cinemas & Edwards Theatres. Regal Entertainment Group ticket vouchers do not expire.