

Adams Township News

Adams Township Park Pavilions

Spring and summer will be here before you know it, which means friends and family gatherings and picnics. If you are new to the township or have lived here all your life, did you know you can rent a picnic pavilion in our picturesque township park?

The Rotary pavilion is the largest of the three pavilions. Along with kitchen and bathroom facilities, it has a fireplace. This pavilion seats 112 people.

The Township pavilion was recently remodeled to provide a kitchen and bathrooms. It seats 84 people.

The Kiwanis pavilion, although the smallest of the three, seats 48 people.

Reservations for the use of a pavilion will be made on a first come basis and must be paid for the day the reservation is made.

Residents:

Kiwanis	\$75 fee/\$25 refund
Township	\$200 fee/\$75 refund
Rotary	\$200 fee/\$75 refund

Non-Residents:

Kiwanis	\$175 fee/\$25 refund
Township	\$250 fee/\$50 refund
Rotary	\$250 fee/\$50 refund

There are some requirements that must be met:

Permits must be in the name of the person paying for the rental. If you are not a township resident, you must pay the non-resident rental fee. You cannot use a township resident's name and address.

Please remember to **keep your pet on a leash and to clean up after your pet** (Ordinance #95, Section 13).

Please **do not park your vehicle on the grass** at the park (Ordinance #95). Use the parking lots.

Refunds are based on the cleanliness of the pavilion after it's use.

Open Positions

If you would like to get involved and volunteer with the Park & Recreation Board, please feel free send a letter of interest to the township: Adams Township, 690 Valencia Road, Mars, PA 16046.

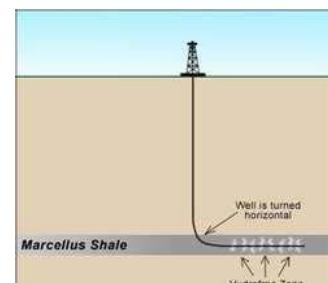
Natural Gas Exploration – A Landowner's Guide to Leasing Land in PA Marcellus Education Team

Property owners generally have the right to explore and extract natural gas under their property unless this right has been leased, sold, or otherwise transferred to another party. (Public records, deeds, and real estate titles will indicate the status of these rights.) If you own these natural gas rights, you may lease the right to explore for gas to a company that has the equipment and expertise to recover or receive the gas for a period of time, and accept payment for the lease and royalties for the value of the gas. Please note that "mineral rights" and "natural gas rights" are not necessarily the same thing, and you should be clear on what rights are legally yours. Check the deed to your property for this information.

Gas leases are legal and binding documents—they are contracts. They represent an official written agreement between two parties, usually between the gas company and the landowner. Because the leases are binding contracts, to protect your rights as a landowner you should have the proposed lease reviewed by a lawyer who is knowledgeable in PA oil and gas law and experienced in gas leases before entering into any contract. Once you sign a lease, there's really no way you can get out of it until it expires, unless you can prove fraud on the part of the gas company.

Gas leases are partly negotiable. To reduce the time and effort of setting up a gas lease with many landowners, gas companies and their representatives may offer a preprinted gas lease document. This document can serve as a starting point for a two-way negotiation, or it can be fully accepted or rejected by the landowner. You can make changes to the lease by creating an addendum that is approved (signed) by both parties.

Additional information is available at the Township Building, 690 Valencia Road, Mars, PA 16046.





Police Department News

False Alarms

Adams Township has a false alarm ordinance, Ordinance Number 61. The ordinance allows for a residence (in a given year, January to December) to have two (2) false alarms free. With the 3rd false alarm, in a given year, there will be a service charge of \$50.00. The 4th false alarm will be \$100.00 service charge and the 5th false alarm and subsequent false alarms will have a \$200.00 service charge.

The definition for a false alarm is: Any signal activated by an automatic protection device, any audible alarm or any other kind of direct or indirect signal given to the police, fire department or emergency response agencies which is not the result of an attempted illegal entry, burglary, intrusion, fire, medical or other similar emergency, excluding weather extremes and utility interruptions, which activates a protection device.

It shall be unlawful for the property owner, lessee or any person occupying or otherwise on any premises within the municipality to make or cause to be made a false fire or security alarm, directly or indirectly to any police, fire department or emergency response agency responding to alarms within the municipality when the false alarm is cause by faulty detection or alarm equipment or negligence of said property owner, lessee or person.

The status of an alarm is to be determined by the police department, fire department or other affected emergency response agency and the decision shall be final.

A notification of a false alarm will be sent out by the Adams Township Police Department, a written report shall be made within 14 days by the owner or lessee to the municipality and affected emergency response agency and shall contain what steps have been taken to eliminate future false alarms.

If you are home and an alarm occurs, call your alarm company and give the proper code and the alarm company will call Butler Control (9-1-1) to cancel the response. The alarm company has to call Butler Control, not the alarm owner or lessee.


Any questions, please call Chief Westerman at 724-625-2040, Ext. 233.



*The Mars Area Marching Band
proudly presents:*

**The Third Annual
Mars Band on the Run 5K Run/Walk
Saturday, May 21, 2011
9:00 a.m.**

Location: Mars Area High School

 The course begins at the high school parking lot located on Three Degree Road and proceeds toward Valencia Borough. Runners & walkers will turn left on Denny Road, right on Ridge Road, right on Butler Street Extension, right on Hays Street and right on Three Degree Road to return to the high school.

Members of the Mars Area Marching Band will be performing at several locations along the course.

Join the excitement and register to walk or run the race or come out and cheer on the runners and walkers. Registered runners & walkers will receive a commemorative T-shirt and will be entered to win great door prizes at the post race party.

New for 2011: a Children's Fun Run will be held on the high school grounds following the 5K.

For additional information or to download an application visit: www.marsband5k.com

Traffic delays can be expected between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Three Degree Road and along the entire racecourse. Adams Township Police, Adams Township Fire Police and Band Boosters will be directing local traffic.



For the safety of all the runners and walkers, please do not drive on the course during the race.

This event will be held rain or shine.



Mars Area Public Library

The Mars Area Public Library invites you to come in and see the changes we've made. Our library has a warm and welcoming setting where you can find best sellers, large print books, audio books, movies, and magazines. There are new computers with 19" screens and Microsoft Office applications (such as Word). WiFi is available free of charge if you wish to use your own computer.

The Agnes Hudac Youth room is a colorful children's room, and houses books, movies, and toys for infant through "tweens". Busy moms can use also the computer while keeping watch over their children. Teens have their own area in the main room where they can read, listen to audio books, and browse fiction and non-fiction items.

Our community room, the Mars National Bank Community Hall, is used for library events and can be rented for private events such as birthday parties and corporate meetings.

We offer a wide spectrum of programming for all ages which include events such as story time, book clubs, reading programs, educational programs, and game days. The community room is open on Friday mornings for community members to socialize while knitting, crocheting, playing board games or cards. We have a semi-annual book sale of gently used books coming up soon. We welcome you to stop in or call (724-625-9048) us to get details on any of our events.

[In the year 2010, Adams Township donated \$40,000.00 to support the library and all of the services they provide.]

New Road Crew Employees



Joe Schriver has recently been hired as a road crew employee. Joe was born and raised in Adams Township. Joe lives in the Township with his wife and three boys.

Ken Rape was also hired as a road crew employee. Ken moved to Adams Township in 1984 where he resides with his wife, son and daughter.

Living in the Township as long as these men have will help them with their jobs since they are very familiar with all of the Township roads.

We wish them all the best.



Voter Information

If you are new to the area and need information on registering to vote or on absentee ballots, you can go to the Butler County courthouse, go to the website at: <http://www.co.butler.pa.us> and click on the link for Bureau of Elections. or you can come to the Adams Township Municipal building and pick up a form.

Water Protection Program MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)



The water protection program (MS4) partnership between Adams Township and M.E.S.A. (Municipal Engineering Service Association) is continuing to be a success. State regulations have been implemented that require townships to test local outfall streams within the township's watershed, which have been

previously located by GPS and mapped. The township is to continue to elicit the help of the community in this process which will involve performing physical, chemical and biological testing and compiling annual reports.

Our participation and commitment to the MS4 program since its start in 2003 will continue to protect the quality and quantity of our water resources, which is vital to our environment.

Adams - Mars Farmer's Market

The Adams-Mars Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from 9:00 to noon, May through September. The location of the Market in Mars is at the Woodland Valley Church parking lot (across the street from the Mars Post Office).




All items are locally grown or made. Local vendors sell "in season" vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, shrubs, honey, eggs and handmade crafts.

The Market is sponsored by Adams Township and the Adams Township Agricultural Security Committee.






Take a moment to stop by some Saturday and support your local producers.








April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 April Fools Day	2
3	4	5 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	6 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 P.M.	7	8	9
10	11 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MWAAT 5:45 P.M.	20	21	22 	23
24 	25 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	26	27	28	29	30

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	4 Planning Commission 7:00 P.M.	5	6	7 
8 Happy Mother's Day	9 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Primary Election Day 	18	19	20	21
22	23 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	24 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MAWAAT 5:45 P.M.	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day 	31				

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Planning Commission 7:00 P.M.	2	3	4
5	6	7 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	8	9	10	11
12	13 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	14 Flag Day 	15	16	17	18
19 Happy Father's Day	20	21 First Day of Summer 	22	23	24	25
26 	27 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	28 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MWAAT 5:45 P.M.	29	30		

Fire Sprinklers in New Residential Construction...But Will That Change?

Pennsylvania now requires new homes to install fire sprinkler systems but it may not be permanent as it is possible that new legislation will remove the requirement. As early as this spring new legislation may be introduced to remove the requirement temporarily or permanently.

The data to support the sprinklers is overwhelming. Studies by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration indicate that the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems could have saved thousands of lives, including firefighters; prevented a large portion of injuries; and eliminated hundreds of millions of dollars in property losses.

It is the official position of the U.S. Fire Administration that all Americans should be protected against death, injury, and property loss resulting from fire in their residences. All homes should be equipped with smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers, and families should prepare and practice emergency escape plans.

There are many benefits of fire sprinklers such as:

Insurance Discounts

Insurance from homeowner underwriters will vary depending on type of coverage. The discounts now range between 5-15%, with a projected increase in available discounts.

Fast Response

Residential sprinklers are designed to respond to a fire much faster than standard commercial and industrial sprinkler systems. The new home sprinklers react automatically to fires more quickly because of their improved sensitivity.

Small Size

For residential systems, the sprinklers will be smaller than traditional, commercial, and industrial sprinklers, and can be aesthetically coordinated with any room decor.

Minimal Installation Work

When homes are under construction or being remodeled, a home sprinkler system will require minimal extra piping and labor.

Low Water Requirement

These systems will require less water than the systems installed in industrial or commercial establishments and can be connected to the domestic water supply.

Piping Requirements

The use of plastic pipe has brought down the cost of in-

stallation in new construction and the retrofit of existing structures.

Test Your Home Sprinkler System's I.Q.

Here are five statements about home sprinkler systems. Are they true or false?

When one sprinkler goes off, all the sprinklers activate.

False! Only the sprinkler over the fire will activate. The sprinkler heads react to temperatures in each room individually. Thus, fire in a bedroom will activate only the sprinkler in that room.

A sprinkler could accidentally go off, causing severe water damage to a home.

False! Records, which have been compiled for well over 50 years, prove the likelihood of this occurring is very remote. Furthermore, home sprinklers will be specifically designed and will be rigorously tested to minimize such accidents.

Water damage from a sprinkler system will be more extensive than fire damage.

False! The sprinkler system will limit a fire's growth. Therefore, damage from a home sprinkler system will be much less severe than the smoke and fire damage if the fire had gone on unabated or even the water damage caused by water from firefighting hose lines.

Home sprinkler systems are expensive.

False! Current estimates suggest that when a home is under construction, a home sprinkler system could cost 1% - 1.5% of the total building price.

Residential sprinkles are ugly.

False! The traditional, commercial-type sprinklers as well as sprinklers for home use are now being designed to fit in with most any decor.

One of the biggest complaints is the cost of the systems. At the present time, the cost of a home sprinkler system is approximately \$1 to \$12 per square foot in new construction. It is hoped that the cost will decrease as the use of home fire protection grows.

So, the data supports sprinklers, but what do you think? Is it worth the cost? Contact your State Legislator and voice your opinion.

PA State Senator Jane Orie: 724-776-3500 or www.senatororie.com

PA State Representative Daryl Metcalfe: 724-772-3110 or www.repmetcalfe.com

For more information about fire sprinklers visit the US Fire Administration website at: www.usfa.dhs.gov/index.shtm

**Adams Township
690 Valencia Road
Mars, PA 16046**

**PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mars, PA
Permit # 62**

**Adams Township Municipal Building: 724/625-2221
Adams Township Police: 724/625-2040**

**Road Crew Building: 724/625-1826
Adams Township Web Site: www.adamstwp.org**

Board of Supervisors

Donald C. Aiken, Chairman
Thomas L. Franceschina, Vice-Chairman
Linda E. Lees, In Charge of Police
Edward L. Vogel
Russell R. Ford

Secretary/Treasurer

Janet L. Lubbert

Code Enforcement

Gary A. Peaco
Mike Knox
Marge Nicklas

Public Safety Director and Chief of Police

William E. Westerman

Assistant Chief of Police

Shawn Anglum

Sergeant

Robert Scanlon

Road Crew Foreman

John Hock

Assistant Road Crew Foreman

Rhett Stobert

Receptionist/Parks

Corry Harley

**Scheduled Meetings at Adams
Township Municipal Building**

Board of Supervisors
2nd & 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Park and Recreation Board
1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Work Session
3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

**Scheduled Meetings at Breakneck Creek
Regional Authority Building
1166 Mars-Evans City Road**

Breakneck Creek Regional Authority
4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township
4th Tuesday of each month at 5:45 p.m.

The Adams Township News is published for the residents of Adams Township. All comments/questions should be sent to: The Adams Township News, c/o Adams Township, 690 Valencia Rd., Mars, PA 16046.