

The Docket

July/August 2021

SUMMARY APPEALS



A defendant who has been found or pled guilty to a summary offense at the Magisterial District Court (MDJ), either traffic or non-traffic, may file an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas. A summary appeal must be filed within 30 days of the disposition date at the county Clerk of Courts office. By filling an appeal the petitioner will receive a *Trial de Novo*, which means they will be

brought in front of a Common Pleas judge for a fresh start.

In Bucks County, the fee is \$64.00 to file an appeal. Information needed to complete the single page document is as follows: The Magisterial District Court Judge, the MDJ address, MDJ docket number(s), the citation number(s), offense description(s), date of conviction, the amount paid to the lower court and the name of the officer who issued the citation. Petitions can be made in person or through mail (with payment).

If the petitioner fails to file within 30 days, they are eligible to file a Nunc-Pro Tunc (“now for then”) petition, requesting the court allow the late filing. An \$84 filling fee is required to a Nunc-Pro Tunc. The Nunc is filed with the Summary Appeal. If the Nunc petition is denied, the appeal filling fees will be refunded, and the disposition will remain as determined at the district court.



Summary Appeals Filed

2018	855
2019	803
2020	561

If the petitioner is found not guilty any collateral money paid to the MDJ will be refunded, and all other need to know agencies, such as PennDot, will be electronically notified by the Clerk of Courts. If the decision is guilty, monies paid to the lower court will be applied to the new Common Pleas assessments, which can include additional fines, cost and fees.

On behalf of myself and the entire Clerk of Courts staff, we wish you a happy Independence Day holiday. Everyday we appreciate the freedoms and opportunities our country offers and we welcome a day to reflect on how fortunate we are. To quote Peter Marshall, “may we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.”

Working in the criminal court system we are reminded daily to not take our freedom for granted. It is our hope, that at least for one weekend, we can put celebrating our common good fortune of being Americans first, and put other differences aside. Maybe in our celebration of our 245 years of independence we can strive to work towards democracy “as the art of thinking together independently (A. Meiklejohn).”



From our Clerk of Courts family to yours, Happy Fourth of July!

Brian

DRiP UPDATE

The Delinquency Recovery Program (DRiP) is one year old. The program was started by Brian Munroe to pursue the collection of fines, costs, fees and restitution due on cases that are decades old.

The program has worked on cases from 1990, 1991, 1992 and 2005. After one year, **\$398,616.52** has been collected.



TOP INSTAGRAMMABLE PLACES IN BUCKS COUNTY*

1. Delaware Canal State Park Towpath
2. Lake Nockamixon
3. Fonthill Castle
4. New Hope Railroad
5. Peace Valley Lavender Farm
6. Floating Down the Delaware River
7. Sweet Spots Trail
8. Sand Castle Winery
9. Peddler's Village
10. Hellerick's Farm

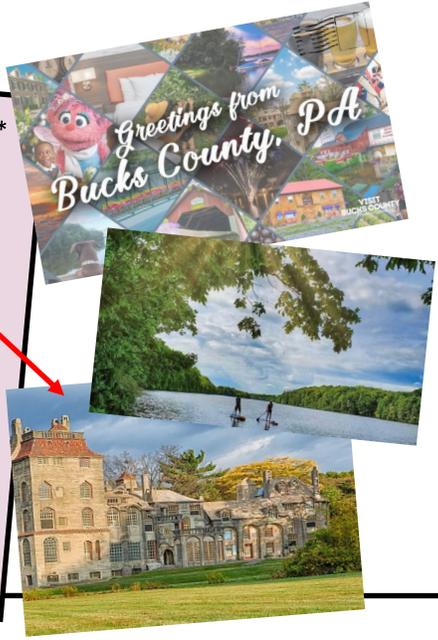


*from Visit Bucks County web site

TOP ATTRACTIONS IN BUCKS COUNTY**

1. Bucks County Playhouse
2. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
3. Core Creek Park
4. Fonthill Castle
5. Bury the Hatchet Axe Throwing
6. Sesame Place
7. Delaware Canal
8. The Little Old House of Make Believe
9. Solebury Orchards
10. Mercer Museum

**from Tripadvisor



TRIVIA

What country is most visited by international tourists?

We asked the staff: What is your dream vacation?



Aubrey, Eileen, Marissa & Megan
Bora Bora (pictured)

- Marcia • Norway
- Mike • Botswana
- Liz • Lake Tahoe
- Jackie • Tuscany
- Jason • Rome

- Shannon • Tahiti
- Jeannette • Germany
- Cathy • Disney World
- Sam • Turks and Caicos
- Deanna & Lauren • Ireland
- Amanda, Kim & Lizzy • Hawaii
- Arianna • Cocoa Island, Maldives
- Alison, Frank, Michele & Sharon • Italy

<http://buckscounty.org/government/RowOfficers/ClerkofCourts>

September/October Newsletter– Anatomy of a Criminal Case: How the Clerk of Courts Manages a Case File.



Answer to Trivia: France is the most visited followed by Spain, United States, China and Italy.

