



First In Berks Historic and Progressive

Amity's Got The Scoop

Volume VI, Issue 2 Fall 2007

Environmental Advisory Council Members Appointed

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors appointed five members to the newly created EAC. The members are Heidi Fisher, Chair, Jennifer Huha, Barbara Romig, Brandon Smith, Marlin Zechman. The EAC was formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and educate the community on matters that can effect the environment. The appointed members



meet on the second Monday of every month. The EAC will be compiling an "environmental resource inventory" which includes maps and descriptions of natural characteristics and environmental features of Amity. The EAC will also focus on educating the community on stormwater pollution and radon testing for resident's homes.

1000 West 10th Street
Douglassville, PA 17015

610-689-6000
Fax: 610-689-9870

www.co.berks.pa.us/amity

Leshie S. Sacks
Chairperson

Richard L. Gokey
Vice Chairperson

Kim Finkbiner
Kim McGrath
Scott Stepp

Charles E. Lyon
Township Manager

Economic Development Advisory Council Issues Mission & Vision Statement

The newly formed Economic Development Advisory Council regularly meets on the second Thursday of the month. The members include Blair Gilbert, Chair, Oddvar Norheim, Matthew Ferdock, Robert Elsas and Susan Flemming. The mission of the EDAC is to enhance economic growth in the Township, coordinate with state, federal, local government agencies' and chambers of commerce to develop our economic objectives. They would like to provide a forum for an interchange of ideas and experiences in support of the economic development of the Township. The EDAC would like to support and provide financial resource forums for businesses in Amity. The EDAC hopes to establish, promote and sponsor special projects in support of economic growth and provide the Su-

perators with recommendations on all aspects of economic development in the Township. The vision of the EDAC is to promote economic development that is consistent with the rich history and community values that have grown since Amity Township was formed.



Seated from left: Robert Elsas, Sue Flemming.
Standing from left: Matt Ferdock, Oddvar Norheim, Blair Gilbert

Upcoming Events
Halloween Parade
October 23, 2007

Leaf Collection
November 19-21, 2007
(Sticks & Brush will be collected if bundled & tied with twine to lengths of 4 ft. and no more than 30 pounds)

www.co.berks.pa.us/amity

TAKE THE STORMWATER RUNOFF CHALLENGE

Across:

- 1) The area of land that drains into an estuary, lake, stream, or groundwater is known as a _____.
- 4) The _____ of speeding boats can erode shorelines.
- 5) Maintaining your _____ tank will help to prevent bacteria and nutrients from leaking into groundwater and surface waters.
- 7) Wetland plants act like a natural water _____, removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- 8) Leave your grass clippings on your _____ to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.
- 9) A single quart of motor _____, if disposed of improperly, can pollute 2 million gallons of water.
- 10) Fertilizers and animal wastes con-

- tain _____ that "feed" algae and other aquatic plants harmful to water quality.
- 12) Polluted runoff from both rural and _____ sources has a significant impact on water quality.
- 16) Storm _____ don't always connect to sewage treatment plants, so runoff can flow directly to rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
- 18) Follow directions carefully when applying _____ on your lawn—more isn't always better.
- 19) Polluted runoff (also called _____ source pollution) comes from so many places that it's hard to "pinpoint" a source.
- 20) Yard and vegetable food waste are suitable additions

to a _____ pile.

Down:

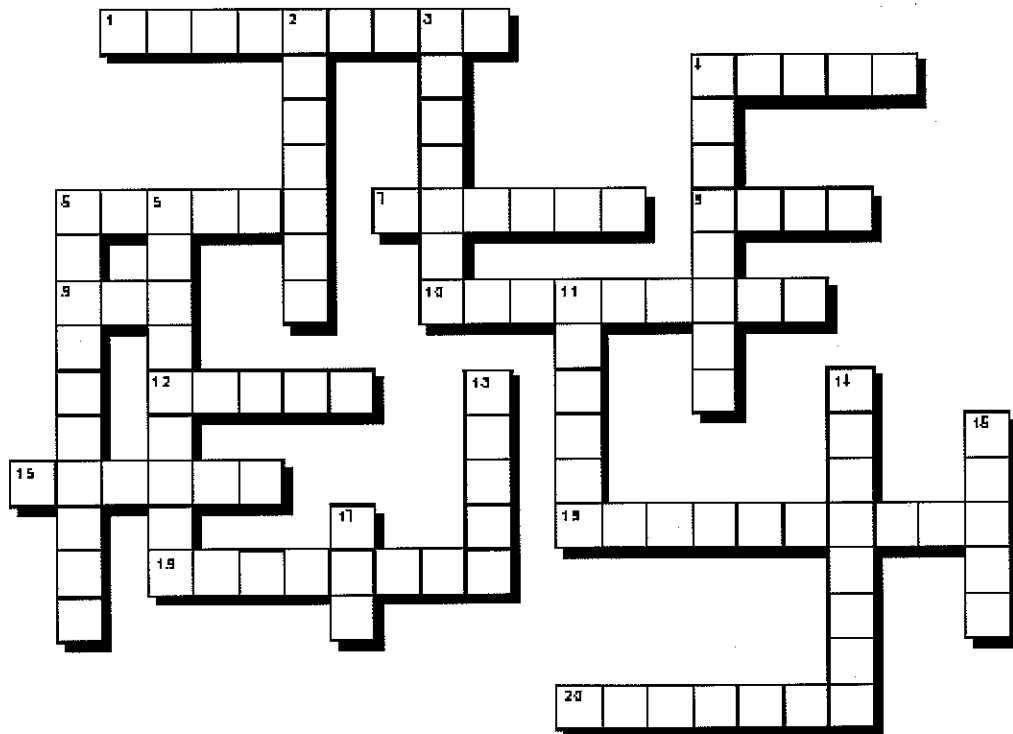
- 2) Don't dump used motor oil into storm drains. _____ it!
- 3) _____ of soil from barren land can cloud nearby streams.
- 4) _____ prevent flooding, improve water quality, and provide habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife.
- 5) Marking "Do Not Dump, Drains to Bay" on a _____ is one way to educate people about polluted runoff.
- 6) Excess sediment, nutrients, toxics, and pathogens are all types of runoff _____.
- 11) Polluted _____ is the nation's #1 water quality problem.
- 13) The cattail is one wetland

_____ that helps purify polluted runoff.

- 14) Too much _____ in water can harm aquatic life.
- 15) Proper crop and animal management on _____ helps to control water pollution.
- 17) _____ impact development helps control stormwater pollution through conservation approaches and techniques.

For more information on stormwater runoff check out our website at www.co.berks.pa.us/amity or www.dep.state.pa.us

- Choices:
- Compost
 - nonpoint
 - sediment
 - drains
 - nutrients
 - septic
 - erosion
 - oil
 - storm drain
 - farms
 - plant
 - urban
 - fertilizer
 - pollution
 - wakes
 - filter
 - recycle
 - watershed
 - lawn
 - runoff
 - wetlands
 - low



Solid Waste Department News

The Benefits of Recycling

Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions

By reducing the amount of energy used by industry, recycling also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps prevent global climate change. This is because much of the energy used in industrial processes and in transportation involves burning fossil fuels like gasoline, diesel and coal, the most important sources of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions into the environment.

In addition to greenhouse gases, recycling can reduce a range of pollutants from entering the air and water. By decreasing the need to extract and process new raw materials from the earth, recycling can eliminate the pollution associated with the initial stages of a product's development: material extraction, refining and processing. These activities pollute the air, land and water with toxic materials.

Recycling saves natural resources

Reprocessing used materials to make new products and packaging reduces the consumption of natural resources. By recycling over 1 million tons of

steel, Pennsylvanians saved 1.3 million tons of iron ore, 718,000 tons of coal, and 62,000 tons of limestone. Through recycling newsprint, office paper and mixed paper, we saved nearly 8.2 million trees.

Recycling saves energy

Recycling in Pennsylvania in 2004 saved over 66 trillion BTUs of energy, enough to power 643,000 houses. Recycling paper cuts energy usage in half. Every pound of steel recycled saves 5,450 BTUs of energy, enough to light a 60-watt bulb for over 26 hours! Recycling a ton of glass saves the equivalent of nine gallons of fuel oil. Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for 3 1/2 hours!

Recycling is good business

Recycling is a growth industry with many kinds of business opportunities, from collection and processing to manufacturing to inventing new technologies. New businesses in Pennsylvania will create jobs for more Pennsylvanians and improve our economy.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

FREE to all Berks County Residents
October 13, 2007
First Energy Stadium
(Rt 61 -Reading)
8:00 am—2:00 pm
Rain or Shine

Acceptable Materials Include:

- Oil Paints, Turpentine, Paint Thinners, Varnishes
- Pesticides, Weed Killers, Driveway Sealant, Pool Chemicals
- Antifreeze, Gasoline, Transmission Oil, Motor Oil
- Solvents, Disinfectants, Oven and Rug Cleaners, household batteries, photographic chemicals

Car Batteries can be dropped off at East Penn Manufacturing in Lyon Station or Exide Corporation in Reading.

Electronic Recycling Event

October 27, 2007
First Energy Stadium
(Rt 61-Reading)
8:00 am—2:00 pm

Electronic Items Accepted:

Computers, Monitors, Laptops, Keyboards, Modems, Printers, Radios, TVs, VCRs, Fax Machines, Copiers, Telephones, Answering Machines, Microwaves, Mobile Phones.

There is a small fee for the items, check out our website for details.

Tire Recycling

November 10, 2007
Beagle Club Road
(Near Western Berks Landfill)
8:00 am—2:00 pm

All tires must be free of mud and debris, up to 8 tires per household accepted.

Road and Sewer Department News

Amity Gardens Storm Sewer Project

Amity's road crew was very busy this summer installing storm drains in the Amity Gardens area. These storm drains will get surface water off the streets eliminating ponding and icing conditions. The storm sewer project is now two-thirds complete. The final phase, of an additional 400' of piping, will begin next Spring and will continue from Elliot Court to the intersection with Holly Drive and then north on Laurelwood Drive.

Park Lane Paving

Those of you that travel over Park Lane should have noticed a tremendous difference in the road. Reconstruction was completed this Summer. The street was excavated and the base of the road was replaced with a concrete aggregate mixture to provide stability and strength. A top coat was placed on the surface, completing the project at a cost of \$88,585.20. Funding for this project came from the State Highway Aid/ Liquid Fuels fund.

Maplewood Drive Paving

This project will begin near the new CVS and will extend to the 400 block of Maplewood Drive. The street will be repaved and the curbing replaced. Core sampling of the street is being completed right now. The project is scheduled for construction in the Fall of 2007 or Spring 2008. Estimated cost of this work is \$ 100,000 for the paving portion and \$182,000 for the curb replacement.

Geiger Road Bridge

Engineering plans for the bridge replacement are underway! Surveying has been completed and required permit applications are in process. We have to obtain these permits before any work can begin. Construction of the new box culvert which will replace the eight foot bridge is anticipated to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2008, which is good news for all those affected by the closure. Estimated costs for this project are approximately \$140,000. Funding for this project will come from the General Fund and a \$50,000 Community Revitalization Assistance grant that was secured with the assistance of Senator John Rafferty.



Monocacy Creek Interceptor

The construction of the new public sewer line will service Valley Road properties and the Bel Air Estates area, providing relief for the failing on-lot septic systems. Right-of-way acquisitions are underway. Construction is expected to start in the Winter or Spring of 2008. The cost estimate of this project is \$2,500,000 which will be paid from the Sewer EDU Fund.



Rt 422 and Rt 662 Turning Lane Project

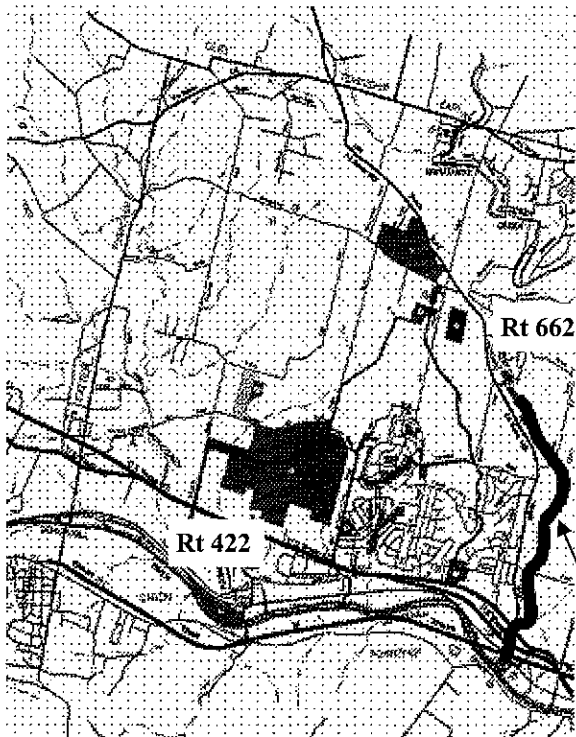
PennDOT has announced plans to improve the intersection of Rt. 422 and Old Swede Road. The improvements include a turning lane from Old Swede Road onto 422, curbing along the highway and new signals on Rt. 422 at River Bridge Road. Construction is scheduled to start next year.

Parks and Recreation



Thank you!

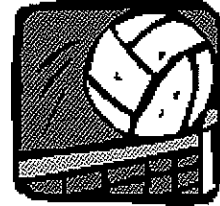
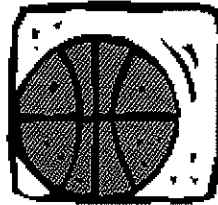
Amity thanks the "A Smile from Jason Foundation" for the purchase of two JennSwings. JennSwings® offer children with special needs the chance to experience the exhilaration of swinging. JennSwing®, designed to help meet the American Disabilities Act guidelines for playground equipment in public recreation applications, makes the term "handicapped accessible" mean more than just able to watch. The swings have been installed in Amity Community Park.



www.co.berks.pa.us/amity

Amity Basketball

For adults in the Daniel Boone School District, basketball starts on October 15 through March 17, 2008 Monday evenings at the Amity Intermediate Center from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Register at the court prior to playing. Photo ID and proof of residence required.



Amity Volleyball

For adults in the Daniel Boone School District, volleyball starts on November 7 through March 19, 2008 Wednesday evenings at the Amity Middle School from 6:00pm to 9:30pm. Register at the court prior to playing. Photo ID and proof of residence required.

Both programs are closed if school is closed that day.

Leaf Creek Trail Feasibility Study

Amity Township was awarded a \$12,500 DCNR grant to fund a study on the feasibility of constructing a trail, preservation of open space and the potential connectivity to state recreational facilities and other municipalities along the Schuylkill River corridor. The proposed Leaf Creek Trail will provide a linear recreation corridor (shown at left) creating a more healthy and livable community. It will provide a recreational trail that connects several residential developments to the Morlatton Village and the Schuylkill River Heritage Trail system. The trail will also traverse a yet undeveloped Light Industrial area. It is proposed to connect to an industrial campus in this area. The Leaf Creek Trail will provide a quality of life standard for companies locating here and as an incentive to invest in Amity Township. Public participation will be integrated as a key component in the study so watch for more information in the coming months.

Proposed Leaf Creek Trail

Planning and Zoning

Newly Adopted TAD Ordinance

The Board of Supervisors recently amended the Zoning Ordinance of Amity Township to allow for a Traditional Age Development (TAD) in the Medium Density Residential District as a conditional use. The TAD establishes a unified planned residential development that allows for a unique and innovative approach for housing and community development for families as well as persons over fifty-five (55) years of age with at least fifty percent (50%) of the residences being occupied by residents one of whom shall be over fifty-five (55) years of age and who do not have children of dependents residing with them on a permanent basis. The purpose of this new ordinance is to encourage innovative residential land development that will conserve open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas while providing unique housing opportunities for families as well as persons over fifty-five. Developers can get "density bonuses" if their development achieves certain design objectives as outlined in the ordinance.

Plans Approved

The corner of North Monocacy Creek Road and 422 will soon have a retail center and a new bank on it. Developer I & G of Douglassville LLC received final approval from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on September 4, 2007. Proposed tenants include a bank and retail shops.

The Villa at Morlatton, located on 422 beside St. Gabriel's Church, has been approved to expand its retirement apartments by 17 additional units. Construction is anticipated to start early October.

Under Review

A new subdivision at Blacksmith Road and Old Swede Road is proposed for 3 single family homes and 10 semi-detached homes. Three parcels, totaling 3.3 acres will be consolidated and subdivided into 13 lots.

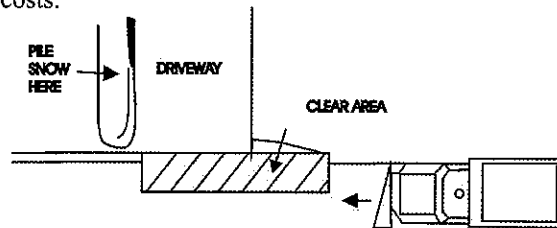
Code Enforcement

Winter is Coming

Did you know that under the Amity Township Zoning Ordinance Chapter 26, Part 4, Section 406; It shall be the duty of the owners of the land abutting upon any curbs and/or sidewalks to keep them in such repair and condition that they may not be or become dangerous to the welfare and safety of the traveling public. Under the International Property Maintenance Code, Section 302.3.1, Where sidewalks exist, those responsible for sidewalks shall have at least a two foot wide path of cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. Snow covered sidewalks can potentially cause children and adults to enter the street to walk or ride school buses. Please remember to clear your sidewalks.

Section 104 of the Amity Township Code of Conduct makes it unlawful to plow, shovel or otherwise cause snow to be deposited onto a public street. This practice can cause accidents and necessitate additional costs for snow removal. Penalties include fines and costs not to exceed \$1000.

Section 103 of the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Code of Amity requires for any winter storm where there is accumulation of one inch or more of ice and snow, all motor vehicles must be removed from public streets. This is to allow the Township plows to do their job quickly and efficiently. Penalties for non compliance include fines up to \$100, towing and costs.



Sketch shows the proper way to shovel snow out of your driveway.

PennDOT also reminds you that it is illegal to push snow from a parking lot or driveway onto a state highway.

Police Department

Amity Township Gets Two New Police Officers

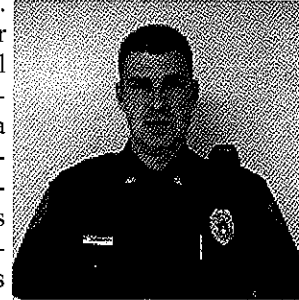
Amity Township welcomes two new police officers this Fall, Officer James W. Mileschosky and Officer Kenneth R. Moyer. Officer Mileschosky comes to Amity with six and a half years experience on the Reading Police Force. He is presently a Sergeant (E-5) in the U. S. Army Active Reserves, having served tours of duty in Iraq, Kosovo and Kuwait. James attended Millersville University, West Chester University majoring in marketing and Mountain State University majoring in criminal justice as well as the Reading Police Academy. Officer Mileschosky is



*Officer James W.
Mileschosky*

married and lives with his wife in Shillington.

Officer Moyer spent four and a half years with the North Coventry Township Police Department before coming to Amity. Kenneth has a Bachelor of Arts with a criminal justice major from Alvernia College. He is also a certified DARE instructor! Officer Moyer is married and lives with his wife in Reading. Welcome to Amity Officers Mileschosky and Moyer!



*Officer Kenneth R.
Moyer*

Notice from Chief Roy

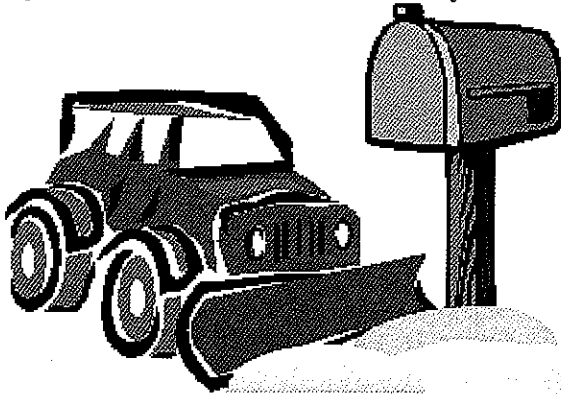
Since the beginning of the 2007-2008 school years, the Amity Township Police Department has encountered several cases of persons entering school busses without prior authorization of the school bus driver or a school official. Some of these individuals are being charged with a misdemeanor of the third degree under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, 18 Pa.C.S. § 5517. Unauthorized school bus entry. This information is being provided as an educational tool, as many Pennsylvania residents and visitors are not aware of this statute.

Below you will find the exact wording of this statute for your perusal:

§ 5517. Unauthorized school bus entry.

- (a) OFFENSE DEFINED.— A person who enters a school bus without prior authorization of the driver or a school official with intent to commit a crime or disrupt or interfere with the driver or a person who enters a school bus without prior authorization of the driver or a school official who refuses to disembark after being ordered to do so by the driver commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (b) NOTICE.— A school district may place a notice at the entrance of the school bus that warns against unauthorized entry.

Act 1998-65 (H.B. 80), § 1, approved June 11, 1998, eff. in 60 days.



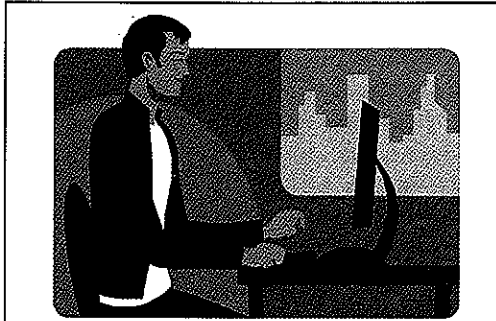
Mailbox Policy

The Board of Supervisors has set forth a new policy regarding damaged mailboxes due to snow plowing. "Only mailboxes directly struck or hit by the plow or vehicle will be considered for reimbursement by the Board of Supervisors". If you believe that your mailbox has been hit in this manner, please contact the Township Manager at 610-689-6000 extension 270.



Amity Township
2004 Weavertown Rd
Douglassville, PA 19518

PRSR T STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DOUGLASSVILLE, PA
PERMIT NO. 16



Want to receive our newsletter by email?
Just sign up on our website, we will email you as soon as it is sent to the printer so you'll get it sooner ! We will delete your name from our hard copy list and you will be helping us save paper and energy!

Monocacy Hill Has New Forest Stewardship Committee

Recently, Amity Township Supervisors appointed a committee of nine community members to evaluate the Amity Township-owned property with the directive to set goals for its use and commission the preparation of a Forest Management Plan for implementing these goals over the next decade or more.

The Forest Stewardship Committee membership consists of Chairman Harold Boyer and Risa Marmontello representing the Township Park and Recreation Board, Vice-Chairman Ron Hovis, Recorder Mae Ann Rehrer, George Tindall, Helen Brower, Noel Davidheiser, Jim Swanson, and Heidi Fisher / Barbara Romig alternately representing the Amity Township Environmental Advisory Council.

THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT. Please use the enclosed survey to let them know how you feel about the future of the Hill. Please return surveys by October 25, 2007. They are actively seeking input from professionals in the field of forest management, but

how the community would like the Hill to be used plays an important role in what the professionals recommend. Now is the time to speak up. If you haven't visited the Hill, fall is a beautiful time to investigate what it has to offer. Fall Frolic Sunday (October 14, 2007 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) would be a good time to stop at the Geiger Road entrance.



Amity lost a devoted volunteer in Bruce Gilbert. He will be sadly missed.