

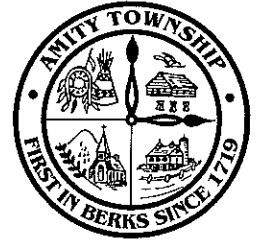


Amity's Got the Scoop

Volume VI, Issue 1

FIRST IN BERKS

Spring 2008



Maplewood gets a face lift!

Paving will soon start on **Maplewood Drive**. Beginning at the new CVS and extending to the 400 block of Maplewood. A new 5" thick base will be installed with a 1 1/2" wearing course on top. All the curbs and some sidewalks and driveway aprons will be replaced. Local traffic will be maintained during construction.



Permits are being obtained for the realignment of **Tollgate Road** at 662. Rights of way need to be negotiated so the roadway can be redesigned to intersect 662 across from Nicholson Avenue.

A joint permit with the Army Corps of Engineers is in the works for the **Geiger Road Bridge** Project. The Township will investigate funding sources to build the culvert to reopen the bridge.

Storm drainage work in **Amity Gardens** will continue this summer.

Final right of way acquisitions are nearly complete for the **Monocacy Creek Sewer Interceptor**. Construction is anticipated to start in Summer or Fall of 2008.

EDAC issues mission statement.

Consistent with Ordinance 224, adopted May 2, 2006, "An Ordinance of the Township of Amity, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Creating an Economic Development Advisory Council, Providing Operation Procedures, and Stating the Powers of the Council" and its Mission statement, the Economic Development Advisory Council ("EDAC") of Amity township (the Township), does hereby propose the following Mission Statement: The mission of the EDAC is to:

- Enhance economic growth of the Township
- Coordinate with state, federal, local government agencies' and chambers of commerce to develop our economic objectives
- Provide a forum for an interchange of ideas and experiences in support of the economic development of the Township
- Support and provide financial resource forums for businesses in the Township
- Establish, promote, and sponsor special projects in support of economic growth

Continued on page 3....

Sewage Management Ordinance

Adopted May 30, 2006, Amity Township's sewage management ordinance was required by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All septic tanks need to be pumped and inspected at least once every three years. The ordinance was implemented in 2007. The Township was

divided into three areas and letters were sent to residents with on-lot systems informing them of the need to have their system pumped and inspected. The fee for the inspection is \$65, which covers the cost of the sewage enforcement officer to come to your home. By having

your tank pumped and inspected you will be extending the life of your system and helping to protect the waters of the Commonwealth. For more information on the sewage management ordinance and on-lot systems visit our website www.co.berks.pa.us/amity.

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CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

Nonpoint
Source
Watershed
Conservation
Water
Runoff
Monitoring
Environment
BMP
Sediment
Fertilizer
Riparian
Nutrients
Pesticide
Xeriscape
Erosion

A N O N P O I N T S O U R C E
N P U A I R D E G H E A I O P
L T O T N E M I D E S W P A A
O W A T R N B K C M L E A G C
N A F D U I Y F F O N U R B S
O T E W O T E R B W T N I C I
I E R Y L P M N R G C D A G R
T R T P O L L U T I O N N A E
A S I E M S T D W S R I F S X
V H L S K B W K J U R S L N C
R E I T C T U A S O L M R O M
E D Z I P L V O T A W Z H I F
S E E C M F H I R E D L M S A
N E R I A N N K G P R H P O J
O D I D V O C M D J T I E R B
C T N E M N O R I V N E T E W

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the Nation's largest source of water quality problems and occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picking up pollutants, and depositing them in rivers, lakes and coastal waters or introducing them into ground water. The most common NPS pollutants are **sediment** and **nutrients**. Other common NPS pollutants include pesticide, pathogens, salts, oil, grease, toxic chemicals and excess **fertilizer**.

The **watershed** approach is one way to determine the effectiveness of management techniques. It looks at a waterbody and all the potential sources of pollution that drain into it. Water conservation uses technologies that limit water use in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry, lawn, driveway and garden, thereby reducing the demand on existing water supplies and limiting the amount of water **runoff**. Implementation of best management practices (**BMP**) include pollution control measures that can be used to prevent or reduce the impacts from activities that may cause water pollution. Examples of BMP's include **erosion** control techniques like silt fencing, establishment of **riparian** (vegetated) zones next to water bodies to filter out pollutants, and **xeriscape** landscaping which incorporates native species, proper irrigation, mulches, and appropriate maintenance schedules. Many local groups organize volunteer **monitoring** efforts which provide information that can help government agencies understand the magnitude of NPS pollution on the **environment**.

For more information on Nonpoint source pollution visit www.epa.gov

Recycling

Amity's recycling day is Friday. Please put your recycling bins at the curbside Thursday evening. If Christmas, New Years or the Fourth of July falls on a Friday, pick up will be on Saturday. Additional bins are available at the Township office for \$10 each. Please rinse and compact large plastic containers so they are less likely to blow around.

We now have drop off locations for yard waste: at 2004 Weavertown Road and 120 Old Philadelphia Pike. Leaves must be in biodegradable bags (no grass clippings) and yard waste must be tied and bundled (bundles must be no larger than 36"x36"x36" and under 20 pounds). Bags are available at most local home centers.

Tips for Reducing Solid Waste

REDUCE

- Reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging
- Adopt practices that reduce waste toxicity

REUSE

- Consider reusable products
- Maintain and repair durable products.
- Reuse bags, containers, and other items
- Borrow, rent or share items used infrequently
- Sell or donate goods instead of throwing them out

RECYCLE

- Choose recyclable products and containers and reuse them
- Select products made from recycled materials
- Compost yard trimmings and some food scraps

RESPOND

- Educate others on source reduction and recycling practices. Make your preferences known to manufacturers, merchants, and community leaders
- Be creative; find new ways to reduce waste quantity .

Electronic Recycling Event

April 18 & 19

St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church
(Rt 562- Exeter)

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

May 3

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. Standard tires \$2 each, on rims \$3.00 each.

It's time to Camp!

School's almost over and it's time to think about summer camp. In case you're new to the area, Amity Township's Park and Recreation Board sponsors a summer camp for boys and girls in grades 1 through 6 from June 16th to August 8th. The children have lots of fun playing games and sports, exploring their creativity through arts and crafts, learning about animals and everybody's favorite— getting wet!

The camp runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Friday and costs \$40 per child. Sorry, there are no refunds or credits issued for missed days, late arrivals, dismissal from camp, withdrawal or absence due to illness or family vacation. Camp

weeks are not transferable to other children.

Children participating in the summer camp should wear non-restrictive clothing due to the activities they will be participating in. All children must wear sneakers and socks. No sandals please! Sun screen, baseball caps and sunglasses are recommended as they will help protect your child from the sun.

Campers need to bring a sack lunch and lots of water!

Registration starts at 8:00am on May 5, 2008 at the Township Building, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville. You can download the applica-

tions and information from our website: www.co.berks.pa.us/amity.

See you this summer!



2008 marks the 10th anniversary of the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association. Volunteers from MHCA maintain the trails and facilities at the Monocacy Hill Recreation Area, as well as offer hikes and nature walks for the public. Amity Township acquired the 420 forested acres on Monocacy Hill 40 years ago for open space and recreation for the public. It features 5 miles of trails for various outdoor activities. Stop in at "The Hill" on Sunday, May 4th to celebrate the 10th Anniversary Open House. Three activities will be offered that day along with refreshments and snacks. All activities are free and open to the public.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Bird Watching Walk | 8:00AM |
| Walk in the Woods | 10:00AM |
| Wildflower Walk | 1:30PM with Dr. Susan Munch, Albright College |

For more information on other hikes and activities visit www.monocacyhill.org.

EDAC Continued....

- Provide supervisors 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 great history and community values that have grown since Amity Township was formed.

This vision hopes to address the following:

- Decrease the tax burden on the Township residents
- Create a focal economic center that meets resident's expectations
- Position Amity as the leading business-friendly Township in Southeastern Pennsylvania

What's New with the EAC

The Amity EAC has been working with the Berks County EAC to create a radon awareness pamphlet specific to this region. According to the Berks County EAC, the pamphlet will be available for distribution by Earth Day, April 22.

The Amity EAC has begun to discuss recycling in the school district, and is also working on public education and awareness to increase our means of recycling.

An Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) is being compiled by the EAC to provide the Township with an inventory of our valuable resources with respect to wetlands, waterways, steep slopes, floodplains, property boundaries, aerial photographs, historical sites, and other environmentally sensitive areas. This information will be useful in land planning and development as Amity grows as a viable community into the next century and beyond.

The Amity EAC meets the second Monday of the month at 7pm in the Township Building

Don't get wet when installing your pool !

Some notes from the Code Dept, dedicated to the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Amity.

Q: Do I need a permit to install a swimming pool?

A: Yes. Applications are available at www.co.berks.pa.us/amity or here or at our office. The fee is \$50 for the zoning permit + \$104 building permit for above-ground pools and \$154 for in-ground pools. Processing usually takes 7-10 business days.

Q: What about an inflatable pool?

A: If the water is 24" deep or deeper, it is classified as a pool. They require the same permits and inspections. Fences may also be required.

Q: Where can I put my pool?

A: In the side or rear yard only. The pool, filter, equipment, decks and accessories must all be setback at least 10' from the rear property line and setback at least the required distance from the side property line based on the Zoning District your property is in. Setbacks will be listed on your Zoning Permit.

Q: Do I need to put up a fence?

A: Possibly. All pools must have a barrier that is 48" high surrounding the pool. Some above-ground pools are higher than 48", which create the required

barriers. Ladders to pool must be lockable. If there is any access to pool that is less than 48", most likely a fence must be installed. Additional information on codes for various types of fencing is available on our website.

Q: Where can the fence be placed?

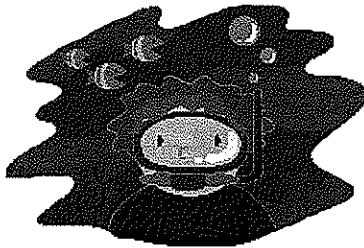
A: Fences 4' high must be placed within the property lines. Fences over 4' high must be setback 2' from the property line and may not be in the front yard. All fences must be kept out of all easements, wetlands, right-of-ways and sightlines of street intersections.

Q: Are there any inspections?

A: Yes. You will need to call & set up 3-5 inspections. They will be listed on the back of the permit. Upon approval of the final inspection, a certificate of occupancy will be signed and mailed to the applicant. The pool may not be used until you receive this document.

Q: What about the electric and associated codes?

A: Various electrical codes from the Int'l Residential Code regarding pools are available on our website. Visit us at www.co.berks.pa.us/amity.



Amity Township
2004 Weavertown Rd
Douglassville, PA 19518

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DOUGLASSVILLE, PA
PERMIT NO. 16

Shredding Event

Sponsored by Amity Township Crime
Watch, Inc.

Saturday, May 31

(Rain or Shine)

9:00am to 12:00pm

Redner's Parking Lot

Rt. 422 and Old Swede Rd.

Proshed of Malvern, PA will provide se-
cure on-site document destruction and all
of the paper will be recycled. For more
information call Susan at 610-385-3740.

Postal Customer

We're on the Web!

www.co.berks.pa.us/amity