

Fall 2009



Amity's Got the Scoop

Amity Township
2004 Weavertown Rd
Douglassville, PA 19518
610-689-6000

www.amitytownshippa.com

Supervisors

Kim McGrath, Chair
Robert R. Yanos, Vice
Chair
Richard Gokey
Scott Stepp
Paul Weller

Township Manager
Charles E. Lyon

Township Hours
Mon.- Fri. 8am-5pm

Speeders Beware! A Message from the Chief of Police

I have been servicing Amity Township since February of this year. I want to thank the Board of Supervisors for the support they have given to the Police Department. Certainly there are many others who have provided encouragement in achieving department goals. To that end, I urge the citizens of Amity Township to communicate their ideas and concerns to me. A form is posted under the Police link on the township website that can be used for this purpose. Those emails come directly to me.

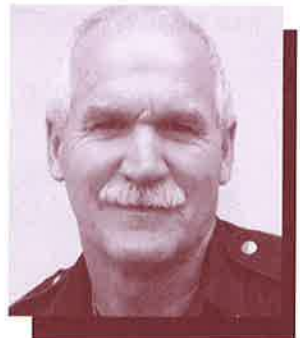
One issue that generates numerous complaints is traffic safety, particularly in residential areas. In order to effectively address that problem, the police department has acquired an EN-RADD device. This technology enables the police to address

speeding violations with greater flexibility and effectiveness. Traffic safety, however, is not just about issuing traffic citations. Traffic safety requires a three prong approach: engineering, education and enforcement. Your police officers are also concentrating on safety issues related to school bus stops. They are monitoring these locations with a strong emphasis on bus stops where younger children are present.

One area where the department takes a stringent enforcement approach is under the Aggressive Driver Program. This funded program requires that enforcement take place primarily on Rt. 422. The 2009 Aggressive Driving program has resulted in 565 traffic citations being issued by Amity Town-

ship officers to date. The fundamental impetus for this enforcement is grounded in 2006 Penn Dot data noting speed as a contributing factor in 26% of reportable crashes. Additionally, speeding was a factor in 39% of the total fatalities for 2006.

In the future, I hope to establish a new alert section on the website that will provide information about recent crimes, safety tips and other law enforcement matters that would be of concern to the community. If you have suggestions for additional content, please submit them to me.



Kent A. Shuebrook
Chief of Police

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Pandemic Preparedness

We've all heard about the H1N1 virus pandemic. How can you protect yourself and your family? Here are some helpful hints:

- Avoid crowds and public places
- Avoid hand contact with people and objects in public places.

Cough or sneeze in facial tissue and dispose of properly.

Cough or sneeze in your upper sleeve, not your hand, if tissues are not available.

Wash hands frequently.

When washing hands remove all rings and do so for 15 seconds with liquid soap or hand sanitizer

Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

Stay at home when sick.

For more information on pandemics check out Amity's website: www.amitytownshippa.com/emergencymanagement

Do you have questions about your taxes: Call the tax collector at

610-689-9227

Yard Waste Pick Up December 7th thru December 11th

Curbside pick-up of yard-waste will commence on December 7th. Please keep the length of your brush no longer than three feet (3') in length and three (3") inches in diameter. Sticks and brush must be bundled and weigh no more than 30 pounds. Just place at the curbside, road crews will be coming around to pick up. If your waste has not been picked up after December 11th, call the Township Office at 610-689-6000. Large tree stumps will not be accepted. Waste left in plastic bags WILL NOT be accepted.

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Halloween Parade

The Daniel Boone Optimist Club will be hosting the annual Halloween Parade this year on October 20th (rain date October 27). The parade starts at 6:30PM



from Lake Drive Recreation Area and travels right on Lake Drive, left on Briarwood, left on Rosewood, right on Lake Drive past the recreation area, right on Griffith S. to Griffith N., left on Lake Drive back to the park. Food vendors will be available. Come out and join the fun!

Trick or Treat Safety

- * Smaller children should be accompanied by an adult
- * Wear light colored clothing
- * Take a flashlight with you.
- * Always use sidewalks where they are available
- * Always walk facing oncoming traffic
- * Visit homes with which you are familiar
- * Report any suspicious behavior to the police immediately

Property Tax Rebate

Of all Pennsylvania homeowners, our seniors face the greatest property tax burden, as they live on fixed incomes but are faced with rising property taxes. The passage of the Taxpayer Relief Act is helping seniors and residents that are disabled stay in their homes and make ends meet through property tax relief. Many seniors are getting the extra help they need through a major expansion of the state property tax/rent rebate program.

from \$500 to \$650 for homeowners.

Claimants or spouses 65 years of age or older; widows or widowers 50 years of age or older; and the perma-

nently disabled 18 years of age and older may qualify for the property tax/rent rebate program. Applications are available online at www.revenue.state.pa.us/ptrr.



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DARE OFFICERS

Amity Township Officers Jeff Smith and Ken Moyer spend 9 weeks in Daniel Boone Elementary and Middle Schools educating



Officer Jeff Smith

children on the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. They have received special

training to teach kids to “just say no” and give them the skills to avoid involvement with drugs, gangs and violence. The program starts in kindergarten through sixth grade and goes beyond the traditional drug abuse prevention programs. It gives children the skills needed to recognize and resist the subtle and overt peer pressures that cause them to experiment with

drugs or become involved in gangs. Thanks to Officers Smith and Moyer for being a positive influence and for helping Daniel



Officer Ken Moyer

Boone children to grow up healthy, safe and secure.

2010 Census

In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation’s borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of

the decade. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more. The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households in February and

March of 2010. The census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It only takes about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. When your questionnaire comes in the mail, please fill it out and send it in. Amity is counting on it.



Emergency Volunteers Needed

The Amity Township Emergency Management team is looking for volunteers. With our busy lives, a large-scale emergency or disaster seems like a remote possibility, but it could happen in Amity. We could experience hazardous chemical spills or releases, power outages, infectious disease outbreaks, severe weather or flooding.

An emergency can occur without

warning, leaving little or no time for you to plan what to do next. It can confine you to your home or workplace or force you to leave your neighborhood.

Everyone has a role to play in preparing for disasters. When an emergency occurs in our community, local government and non-governmental disaster relief agencies will be there to help you. You

can be part of that assistance team. If you can volunteer your time to receive training and be available to your community during a crisis, Amity needs you. For more information, please call Derrick Nestor, Emergency Management Coordinator at 610-689-6000 or check out their web page at www.amitytownship.com/emergency-management.

Fire Safety Basics

Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10, 2009. Did you know forty (40%) percent of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms? Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home structure fires in half.

Here are some basic fire safety tips:

- * Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- * For best protection use both photo electric and ionization technology. You can use individual ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or combination units that contain both technologies in the same unit.
- * Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- * Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- * Make sure everyone can hear the sound of the smoke alarms.
- * Have a home fire escape plan. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible, and a meeting place outside. Practice your escape plan twice a year.
- * When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- * If you are building or remodeling your home, consider a home fire sprinkler system.



Don't Forget to Change Your Batteries!

Permits available and can be submitted online:

- New Homes/Additions
 - Decks
 - Fences
 - Sheds
 - Pools
 - Signs
- Home Businesses
 - Electrical
 - Plumbing
 - Driveway
 - Zoning

Code Enforcement

The Code Department is often called upon to determine whether the use of a local property complies with zoning and code regulations or if it violates them. A Township employee may observe a questionable use while on other Township business, or a resident may call to question the legality of a neighbor's property use. Complaints often arise around outside lighting, fencing, the accumulation of refuse and other property maintenance issues. The Code Department is responsible for investigating all potential violations of the Township's zoning and building codes. Once alerted to a potential violation, the Code Dept. will visit the address in question to evaluate the circumstances. If the Code Enforcement Officer identifies a specific violation, a letter is sent to the owner of the property explaining the violation and providing a timeline within which corrections must be made. When the allotted time expires, the zoning officer returns to the property to confirm that the violation was corrected, and if it

was not, issues an enforcement notice or citation. If the problem is not resolved, the Code Department may seek fines through district court, or if a violation jeopardizes resident safety, may take immediate action.

To file a complaint: If you are concerned that a neighbor has violated the property maintenance code or the zoning ordinance, the Code Dept. recommends taking the following steps:

1. Talk to your neighbor. The neighbor may not realize he or she is creating a disturbance or violating an ordinance. They may take steps to resolve the problem.
2. If an amicable solution cannot be worked out you may file a formal complaint with the Township.
3. Contact the Code Department by phone at 610-689-6000 ext. 245 and provide as much information as possible.

Monocacy Creek Interceptor

Construction on the Monocacy Creek Interceptor has begun. The new sewer line will service Bel Air Estates and the Valley Road area where many failing septic systems have been identified. This interceptor has been required by PA DEP as part of Amity's Act 537 plan to protect the ground waters of the Commonwealth. All residences within 150 feet of the line will be required to connect. Construction will start with core borings. You may notice some blasting in certain areas. Residents in the area will be notified before any blasting begins.

Leaf Creek Trail

A public meeting to discuss the feasibility of the proposed Leaf Creek Trail will be held on October 13th at the Villas at Morlatton, Douglassville at 6:30PM. The Leaf Creek Trail is proposed to run parallel along the Leaf Creek and eventually connect to the Schuylkill River Trail. All are welcome!



Leaf Pick Up

November 23rd thru
December 3rd.

With the leaves falling, Amity road crews will be coming around to pick up bagged leaves. Leaves must be in brown kraft paper bags. These bags are available in local hardware/home improvement stores. There is no set schedule for any area in the Township, just put your bags at curbside and they will be picked up.



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Fax: 610-582-2330

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Recycling

In a combined effort with Amity Township's EAC, Ken Smith of Daniel Boone School District and the Township's Recycling Coordinator Kathie Benson recycling was re-established in Amity Township schools. Last year, because of budget constraints, recycling was discontinued. In June, the Township received 323 recycling bins from a grant written by Ms. Benson and sponsored by the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania. These bins were placed in class-

rooms in the elementary, middle and high schools to recycle paper. A waste audit conducted by BCSWA found that the school district could save over \$10,000 in

trash disposal costs by recycling paper. Mr. Smith and the Ecology Club is working on expanding the recycling program to include other items. Thanks to Boy Scout Troop



Daniel Boone Middle School's Recycling Club, Teacher Thomas Voelker, Facilities Manager Ken Smith and the Township's Kathie Benson

521 who helped empty recycle bins and clean up during Community Days. Many thanks for making Amity cleaner and greener! Check out our website for more information on Amity's EAC.

RECYCLING EVENTS

Electronic Recycling

October 16th and 17th at First Energy Stadium 8AM to 2PM

Tire Recycling & Paper Shredding

October 31st at First Energy Stadium 8AM to 2 PM

Pharmaceutical Recycling

October 24th at Giant Food Stores in Exeter Commons 10AM to 2 PM

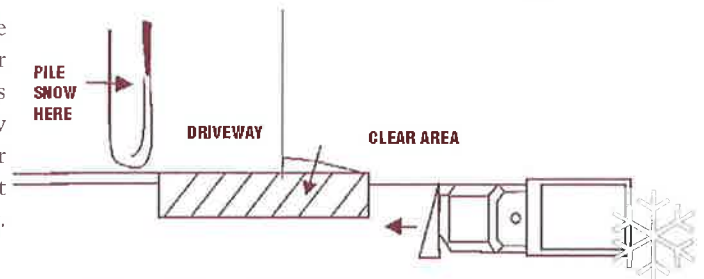
Old Man Winter is Coming

In our efforts to keep our residents safe we would like to remind everyone of their responsibility to keep your sidewalks shoveled and clear of ice and snow during the year. 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 cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. You must comply immediately to avoid penalties. Penalties can include fines not to exceed \$1,000 per day the violation exists.

of your driveway, away from the flow of traffic. Clearing snow for a distance prior to your driveway allows the plow to 'unload' before reaching it. By piling snow away from the direction of oncoming snow plows, the bulk of the snow will not be pushed back onto your driveway.

Please remember, we do our best to clear the streets as soon as possible, if the plow puts snow in your driveway, it is not done intentionally.

Plow or shovel your snow to the side



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Fax: 610-689-9870
website: www.amitytownship.com

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT OCTOBER 31, 4 TO 9PM

Have a Happy and Safe



HALLOWEEN

Protect our water, clean up after your pets!

It is important to clean up after your pets because it can be very harmful to the neighborhood you live in. Animal waste contributes to storm water pollution, and more than ten million gallons of water containing fecal contaminants from human and animal sources flows into neighborhood storm drains every day. It contains disease-carrying bacteria and toxins that can increase the risk of viral infections, flu and skin rashes for swimmers in water bodies near storm drain outlets. Not only does it contaminate your water, but the odor omitted from pet waste can ruin a refreshing day out in the sun. It can also ruin a good pair of shoes!



Remember the Township belongs to everyone, not just your dogs. Dog feces take the joy out of outdoor activities. So when your pet goes, take it with you!

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Recreation

Take a hike! Monocacy Hill Conservation Association is sponsoring a Moonlight Hike on Sunday, November 1 at 8:30 PM and Fitness Walks on Sunday November 15 and Sunday, December 27 at 1:00PM. All walks start from Monocacy Hill parking lot on Geiger Road in Douglassville. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. All walks are weather permitting. For more information call 610-385-7675 or visit their website at www.monocacyhill.org.



Amity's basketball program starts October 19 and runs through March 15, 2010 on Monday evenings at the Intermediate Center. Play starts at 6PM through 9PM. The gym is always closed if school has been closed for emergency or weather related conditions. You must sign the register and show identification to the monitor.

Amity has tennis courts located in Amity Community Park near the Middle School. The lights are coin

operated. When it gets really cold, the courts are flooded so residents can ice skate, watch our website at www.amitytownship.com for more information on when the ice is safe to skate. Amity Community



Park also has over a mile of walking and biking trails throughout the park. Sorry, no dogs are allowed in the park, except for service animals.

Daylight savings time ends November 1st. Turn your clocks back 1 hour.

