



Amity Township

VOLUME X, ISSUE 2

FALL 2011

AMITY TOWNSHIP

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

www.amitytownshippa.com

Supervisors

Robert R. Yanos, Chair
Kim McGrath, Vice Chair
Scott Stepp
Paul Weller
Terry Jones

Township Manager

Charles E. Lyon

Township Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8am to 5pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Permits 2

Yard Waste 2

Dumpster

Police 3

Recycling 4

Snow 5

Recreation 5

Monarch Fire 6
Company

Leaf Pick Up 2011!

There will be big changes for leaf collection this year. Amity has purchased a new leaf vacuum with a grant received from PA DEP. Starting November 13 (weather permitting) road crews will be coming through the Township to vacuum up your leaves. Just rake your leaves in a pile at the curb or

street side and make sure it is away from mailboxes or trees. **Do not bag your leaves. The Township will not pick up bagged leaves.**

Yard waste must be kept separate from your leaves. Yard waste pick up will

commence the week of December 5th. Items should be bundled, tied or placed in brown paper bags, no larger than 2' by 2' and weighing no more than 20 lbs. We hope that our new equipment will make fall clean up easier for Amity residents.

Automatic Withdrawal for your Sewer Payments!

In our continuing efforts to provide convenient services for our residents, The Township offers automatic electronic withdrawals from your checking or savings account to pay your sewer bill. No more worrying about losing your sewer bill, no more writing checks and no more penalties!

Upon your authorization, we just withdraw your quarterly payment on a specified day and credit it to your sewer account right away. If you are interested in automatic electronic

payments, the forms are available in the lobby of the Municipal Building.

If you would prefer to drop off your payment in person we have installed a new secure drop slot on the outside of the building (located on the brick wall) You can drop off your check or money order any time, day or night.

If you have any questions, please call the Township at 610-689-6000 ext. 225.



Amity's New Leaf Vac!

Building and Zoning

DO I NEED A PERMIT?

In our efforts to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Amity Township, on August 18, 2010, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that modifies the UCC regulation as to what types of alterations and repairs to a dwelling require a permit. Below is a summary of most of the permitting requirements. The types of alterations that are most affected are the installation of new piping, wiring, lighting, heating and cooling.

Zoning Permit Required	Building Permit Required	No Permit Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sheds * Pools where water depth is greater than 24" deep * Fences * Additions * Garages (attached or detached) * Decks * Driveway (new or extension) * New Homes * Patios * Any change of use or occupancy of a commercial building * No-impact home-based business * Signs * Demolition of a structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Accessory structures greater than 500SF (sheds, detached garages) * Pools where water depth is greater than 24" deep * Additions * Decks over 30" above grade or supported by a dwelling * Commercial repairs, additions, improvements or alterations * New dwellings or buildings * Roofs over patios * New windows or doors in a load bearing wall of a dwelling * Any change of occupancy to a commercial building * Signs at commercial properties * Temporary structures * Mechanical additions such as piping, wiring, lighting, heating and cooling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Roof Replacement on a residential structure * Siding replacement * Retaining walls not over 4' high * Non-bearing walls in a dwelling * Residential swings and playgrounds * Pools where water depth is less than 24" deep * Gutters and downspouts * Appliance replacement * Security systems * Propane or Liquefied petroleum appliances and associated piping * Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, and similar finishing work * Resurfacing or sealing driveway * Replacing a furnace with the same size and same type

If you have a property maintenance issue, you can file your complaint online on our website.

Yard Waste Dumpster

The Township provides a dumpster for yard waste year round for yard waste, tree branches and hedge trimmings, etc. This dumpster is for residents only and not for residents of other municipalities, businesses or professional landscapers.

Please do not put grass clippings in the dumpster. This is due to concerns about odor and spontaneous combustion. The list of accepted materials is posted on the side of the dumpster. The Township does not pick up Christmas trees,

however, you can deposit them after the holidays in the yard waste dumpster. Thank you for your cooperation.




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From the Chief

It is unfortunate, but there are instances where property is stolen from cars parked in driveways and residential streets. All too frequently, the victim cars are not locked. My experience shows that it is extremely rare for a locked car to be entered in a residential neighborhood. These types of crimes can be referred to as crimes of opportunity. The easier it is to commit the crime the greater the likelihood that

someone with larcenous intent will commit a crime. Remove the "opportunity", lock your car doors, and reduce the probability of becoming a victim. It also goes without saying, lock the doors and windows of your home.

Since this is the fall newsletter, residents should also be mindful of the Snowfall Parking Ordinance: Section 403. this ordinance requires that all vehicles

must be removed from public streets when there is a snow or ice accumulation of one inch (1") or more. Failure to do so create hazards for plow operators and creates other safety issues. The police department follows a strict enforcement policy and citations will be issued for violations.



Chief Shuebrook

**Be Safe.
Lock your
door and
windows.**

Safety Tips from the Police Department

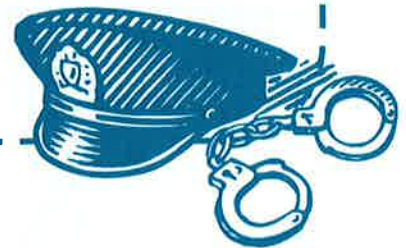
While we hope we will never have to face an emergency or a criminal event, you can prepare yourself and your household by keeping an inventory of your belongings. Take pictures of your possessions, write down serial numbers if available.


Keep your inventory list in a safe place, like a safety deposit box.

Remember, the best protection is prevention. Lock your doors and windows when you're not home. Lock your car doors and keep items out of sight. The most com-

mon crimes are crimes of opportunity.

If you are going to go on vacation, you can fill out the vacation house check online www.amitytownship.com.





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2011 Special Waste Collections

The Berks County Solid Waste Authority is again sponsoring special waste collection events.

The household hazardous waste event will be held on November 5, 2011 at the First Energy Stadium on Rt. 61, Reading. Materials accepted include oil paint, turpentine, pesticides, motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, pool chemicals, oven cleaner, disinfectants and solvents.

Tire and paper shredding will occur on October 22, 2011 at

the First Energy Stadium. There is a \$2.00 per tire charge. Tires must be free of mud and debris. Shredding is for individuals only, no businesses please, and there is a 10 box maximum.

The Pharmaceutical Waste event will be held on October 15, 2011 at the First Energy Stadium. Unwanted or expired prescriptions or over the counter medicines should be brought in their original packaging for disposal by incineration. All events are open from

8am to 2pm.

The County also sponsors a full time electronic collection center at 1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport. The center is open Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8am to Noon. Items collected include computers, TV's, radios, fax machines, telephones, monitors, microwaves, and air conditioners. There is a small charge for the electronic equipment. For more information visit the County website at www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/SWA



For safety's sake...do not put trash or recycling receptacles in the street. Place on top or behind the curb!

Protecting Your Watershed: Small Efforts Yield Big Impact

We need your help too, to keep our watershed healthy now and for future generations.

Inside your home:

Don't pour chemicals or oil down the drain or on the ground. Soil cannot purify these, and the oil or chemicals may contaminate runoff if placed directly on the ground. Select non-toxic or less toxic alternatives to typical household products, such as cleaning agents. Use phosphate-free detergents for your laundry.

Outside your home:

Landscape with plants requiring minimal fertilizer. Avoid toxic pesticides. Use natural pest control agents. Help prevent soil erosion by

preserving existing trees and plant new trees and shrubs. Use mulch in flower beds and on bare ground to prevent erosion and runoff. Clean up after pets.

In your community:

Utilize collection sites for disposal of hazardous chemicals, pharmaceuticals, car and tractor batteries, paints and motor oil. Protect wetlands that serve as natural buffers against pollution, soil erosion and flooding. Get involved in community activities to clean up the banks of waterways and illegal dump sites that may contaminate a water source.

For more information on how you can protect and preserve one of life's most essential resources—water, visit www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com.

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Old Man Winter is Coming!



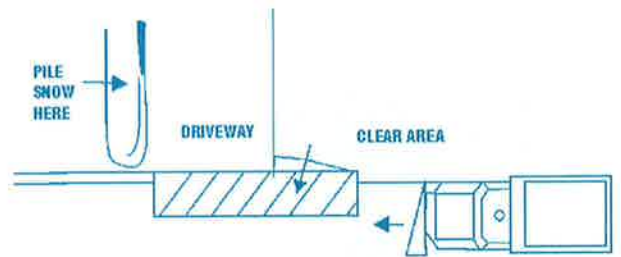
In our efforts to keep our residents safe we would like to remind everyone of their responsibility to keep your sidewalks shoveled and clear of ice and snow during the year. Under the International Property Maintenance Code, Section 302.3.1, where sidewalks exist, those responsible for sidewalks shall 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.

Plow or shovel your snow to the side 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, 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. And remember if there is an accumulation of

1" or more of snow or ice, you must remove your vehicles from the street. Police will issue tickets for vehicles left on the street after a snow/ice storm.

The Township is not responsible for replacing mailboxes knocked down by thrown snow or ice.



Monocacy Hill

Fall is a great time for a hike! Visit Monocacy Hill Recreation Area for their annual Fall Open House on Sunday, October 16th from 9am to 4pm. The event will include several hikes and activities as well as free drinks and snacks. For more information on this event and

other hikes offered this Fall visit www.monocacyhill.org.



Basketball Program starts October 17!

This year the basketball program will be held in the Amity Intermediate Center for adults in the Daniel Boone Area School District. It starts Mondays at 6pm and runs until 9pm. Registration is required at the court. Sponsored by the Amity Township Parks and Recreation Board.



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- ☉ When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ☉ When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ☉ You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- ☉ You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- ☉ **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.

Monarch Fire Company Celebrates 75th Anniversary!

On August 6, 2011 Monarch Fire Company celebrated their 75th anniversary with a parade and housing event. Over 24 companies were represented. State Senator Rafferty, County Commissioner Leinbach, Amity Supervisor, Robert Yanos were in attendance to mark this milestone.

The fire company was originally housed in a garage at Flannery's Mill. In 1948, the company moved to its present location on Pennsylvania Avenue. The building was expanded in 2003 to meet the growing needs of the department. Monarch now has six



trucks and an ATV. They have 35 active firefighters and cover Amity Township and surrounding areas. Congratulations Monarch, and thank you for your service to Amity Township.

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