



Amity Township

VOLUME X, ISSUE I

SPRING 2011

AMITY TOWNSHIP

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

www.amitytownshippa.com

Supervisors

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

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Amity Gets a New Leaf Vac!

Efforts to improve recycling in Amity Township has gotten a big boost from a state Recycling Development and Implementation Program. Thanks to a \$63,016 grant from PA DEP, Amity Township was able to purchase a new truck with a leaf vacuum. For your convenience you won't have to purchase kraft bags anymore and you won't

have to bag your leaves, just rake them into the street at the curb and the Township will come along and vacuum them up. Then we will take them to a recycling facil-

ity where they will be used for mulch. This will keep more material out of our landfills, preserve our natural resources and protect our environment. Thank you DEP!



Amity's New Leaf Vac!

New! Amity Township Youth Tennis League

A new tennis league is starting in Amity. The USTA 10 and Under uses the QuickStart tennis play format, designed to enable kids to learn, rally, play and compete right from the start. Tailoring equipment and courts to the child's size makes the game more accessible and fun! The season runs Mondays from June 20 to August 15 at the Middle School tennis courts. Registration opens April 1st and is limited to 100 players. The cost is \$75 which includes USTA membership, 8 weeks of practice and play and a

tee shirt. To register online visit <http://teamtennis.usta.com> and click on "register to play". Enter the Team ID# depending on the program time for your child. The time for ages 5-8 is 5:00pm- 6:30pm. Enter team #3598152536. The time for ages 9-12 is 6:30pm-8:00pm. Enter Team #3508152533. If you are not a USTA member click on Join Today. Then go back to TennisLink screen and enter membership ID, then click on proceed to check out.. If you have any questions contact program director Mike

Murphy at tennis@suprememcourttennis.com or tennis@setpointtennis.org or call 610-621-9067.

If you would be interested in being a volunteer coach to help your child's team, training will be held. Sponsored by Amity Parks and Recreation Board and the Daniel Boone Optimist Club.



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.

On Lot systems

Last year the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance allowing PSMA certified haulers to inspect your on-lot septic system and report back to the Township. According to the Sewage Management Ordinance all on-lot systems must

be pumped and inspected every three years. Previously, the Township SEO did all the inspections. Now, if you prefer, your pumper can perform the inspection if they are PSMA certified. The fee if the hauler inspects is \$40. If the

Township inspects the fee is \$65.

Effective April 1, 2011, all permits to install or repair an individual on-lot septic system must be applied for through the Amity Township Code Enforcement Department.



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From the Chief

There's a phrase that we used when I was a police K9 officer: "He never did that before!" This always happened when the K9 cop's highly trained K9 did something they weren't supposed to do. The reason is simple. Dogs are dogs, not robots. They react to the world around them in a variety of ways, Occasionally they are aggressive, particularly when they feel threatened. This will most likely occur when they are on their

"home turf". That's the yard where the underground fence is buried so "Fido" won't stray. The problem is that given the correct level of Stimulus, the shock from the "fence" may not work. Once your dog crosses that threshold and enters the public right of way, the owner of that dog has a liability issue should someone be injured by "Fido". So a caution is in order. **DON'T TRUST THAT FENCE TO STOP YOUR DOG ALL**

THE TIME EVERY TIME. When your dog is outside, sniffing around, you should be present. For the sake of your pet, the neighbor walking her dog and the liability you might face. Finally, Ordinance 179, Section 104 prohibits dogs from running at large. A conviction for the violation of this ordinance can result in a maximum fine of \$600.

Your canine friend and that electric fence



Basketball Nets

Children play in the street. They shouldn't, but they do. One athletic activity they pursue most often in the public roadway is basketball. The issue is that such play is not safe, and secondly it is a violation of a local ordinance. Ordinance 233 pro-

hibits the placement of basketball nets that overhang the public roadway or any public passageway, including sidewalks. When the police department receives complaints or observes a basketball net in violation of the ordinance, the homeowner

will be given written notice of the violation. Subsequent violations can result in the issuance of a citation which carries a maximum fine of \$1,000.



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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 April 16, 2011 at the Exeter Municipal Building at 4975 DeMoss Rd., 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 April 30, 2011 at the

Exeter Municipal Building. 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 May 7, 2011 at the Exeter Municipal building. Unwanted or expired prescription 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

Sunday, May 1st Monocacy Hill Conservation Association will hold its Spring Open House at Monocacy Hill Recreation Area. Several hikes will be held that day, as well as games, activities and free refreshments. Fitness hikes and nature walks are planned throughout the spring. For more information, please check out the Calendar of Events on the website at www.monocacyhill.org.

Environmental Advisory Council

Electric rates, that have been capped since 1997, expired in December 2010 for Berks County. The PA Public Utilities Commission estimates that customers of Met-Ed will see a rate increase of approximately 9.1% in 2011. That means if your annual electric bill is \$2,700, you can expect to

see an increase of \$246. To counter that increase, there are numerous things you can do to reduce your electric consumption. A few changes that you can easily implement include: replace your current light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, air dry your wash, caulk or seal around win-

dows and doors, when replacing appliances purchase energy star-rated ones, purchase and install a programmable thermostat and wrap your hot water heater with insulation. There are many other steps you can take, but most of these are easily completed by a homeowner.

As part of our community service the Amity Lions Club distributes home medical items to area residents. Due to a recent surge in area needs we're currently in short supply of hospital beds and wheelchairs. If you have either of these items and are able to donate those, please contact the Lions Club at 610-385-7897.

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Fields

In the last two years Amity Township lost two former supervisors that were instrumental in shaping the Township. D. Gene Hafer served Amity for 26 years. He was past Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. During his term on the Board, the Township purchased the 420 acres we now know as Monocacy Hill Recreational Area. Mr. Hafer was also past president of the Amity Athletic Club and was active in developing that site into what it is today.

Jake Oxenford served Amity for 23 years. He was hired by the

Township in 1967 and spent many years as Township Roadmaster. Mr. Oxenford also served on the Board of Supervisors. During that time the Board purchased the land that we know as Amity Community Park and built the Township Building. The current Board of Supervisors honored the memory of these two dedicated public servants by naming recreational fields after them.



The Jake Oxenford Field at Lake Drive Park



Kaitlyn, Andrew and Rachel Hafer at the D. Gene Hafer Field at Amity Park Road Recreation Area

Street Cleaning

What a long winter this has been! It seemed like every other week we had snow or ice. Now it's time to clean up all the cinders that helped make our roads safe. Road crews and the Township's contractor will be sweeping the streets starting April 11 through April 18.

When your street is posted, please move your vehicle off the street so the crews can clean up efficiently and quickly.

Remember, if you have brush from your yard the Township provides a dumpster at the Municipal Building where you

can dump your brush. No stumps, please!

For safety's sake please trim your bushes and trees back from sidewalks and rights of way, especially where there are stop or yield signs. Over hanging foliage creates hazards for pedestrians as well as drivers.



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