



Amity Township

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 2

FALL 2012

AMITY TOWNSHIP

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

www.amitytownshippa.com

Supervisors

Robert R. Yanos, Chair
Kim McGrath, Vice Chair
Paul Weller
Terry Jones
Richard Gokey

Township Manager

Charles E. Lyon

Township Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8am to 5pm

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Leaf Pick Up 2012!

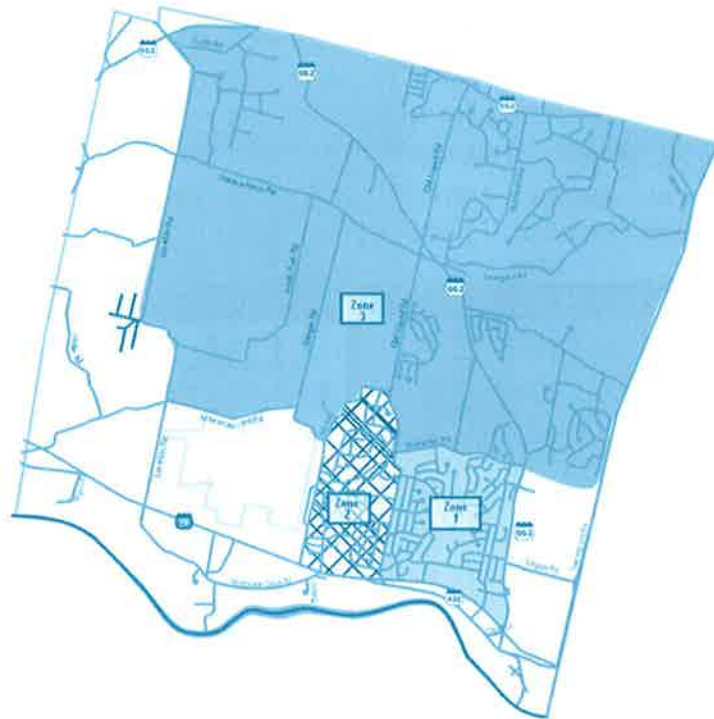
Last year presented some challenges for our leaf pick up event. Imagine a six inch snowfall in October! This year the road crew will be collecting leaves via the following schedule: starting November 12 the Township will pick up leaves in Zone 1 from Old Airport Rd. east to 662 and from 422

north to Morlatton Rd. This will take two weeks, weather permitting. Zone 2 will be picked up next from Old Airport Rd. west to Hill Rd. and from 422 north to Hill Rd. This should take three to four days weather permitting. Zone 3 will be from Rosecliff Dr. north to 562 and from Valley Rd. to Fancy Hill

Rd. 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.**

Crews will go around a second time to clean up any leftover leaves or any areas not mentioned.

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.



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

- * 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

Building Permit Required

- * 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

No Permit Required

- * 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.

Do you have a detention pond?

Do you know if you have a storm water detention facility on your property? As specified on your deed, it is your responsibility to perpetually maintain this facility and its components so that it can operate properly. This includes: 1. Main-

taining unobstructed flow of storm water through the outlet structure, removal of any sediment or debris that accumulates in, at or around the outlet structure and the cutting of any vegetation around the outlet structure. 2.



Repair of any erosion that occurs in the basin bottom. 3. Regular mowing of the berms of the basin. The Township inspects these basins on a yearly basis. If you have questions about your detention basin, please call the Township office at 610-689-6000.



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CRIME PREVENTION:

1. **LOCK IT!** A large number of thefts are crimes of opportunity. Unlocked cars, doors and windows present the ideal opportunity for the commission of a crime. Your GPS, iPod, purse and even that laptop on the backseat of your UNLOCKED car is an attractive invitation to the dishonest person.
2. **CALL UP!** Too often, the police are not called until well after a crime/event has occurred. This delay can impair the ability to solve the crime. If something or someone appears suspicious, then call. In an emergency, dial 911. Your call will be answered by Berks County Radio and they will dispatch an officer. In a non-emergency, dial 610-689-6002. In the event that no one is in the Amity Police Dept. office, then Berks County will answer and dispatch an officer.
3. **NUMBER IT!** Many resi-

dences are NOT NUMBERED OR CLEARLY NUMBERED. It can be critical that officers locate an address when responding to an emergency situation including medical emergencies. Mailboxes should be numbered on both sides with reflective numbers. Houses should also be numbered in a visible place with 5-6" high numbers. An additional location for numbering is the driveway apron.

TRAFFIC:

1. The police conduct traffic details with an emphasis on speeding in residential areas. Remember, the speed limit in a residential area is 25 MPH.
2. **STOP** means **STOP!** Motorists occasionally fail to come to a complete stop at posted STOP signs. This failure jeopardizes motorist safety and can result in a citation, fine and increased insurance costs for the violator.

ORDINANCES:

1. Unfortunately, the winter is approaching and that will mean snow. Amity Township's snow ordinance requires that vehicles be removed from public streets when there is an accumulation of 1" (one inch) or more of snow, ice or sleet. Failure to comply can result in a minimum fine of \$25.
2. **Curfew:** a reminder to parents of minor children (under 18 years of age) that Amity has a curfew ordinance. The following applies: November 2 to October 19, Sunday thru Thursday 10PM to 6AM, November 2 to October 19, Friday thru Saturday, 11:59PM to 6AM. Halloween time period, October 20 to November 2, everyday 9PM to 6AM.

*Be Safe.
Lock your
door and
windows.*



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2012 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 October 20, 2012 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.

Paper shredding will occur on October 13, 2011 at the First

Energy Stadium. Shredding is for individuals only, no businesses please, and there is a 10 box maximum.

The Pharmaceutical Waste event will be held on October 13, 2012 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 and tire 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 and tires. 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: Conserve Water

To date, 2012 has been one of the driest years on record. The US Geological Survey (USGS) and the PA DEP monitor drought conditions by measuring precipitation, ground water storage, stream flows, soil moisture and water supply storage. Pennsylvania has three drought classifications: drought watch, drought warning and drought emergency. Although Berks County is not currently experiencing a drought, as of August 12, 2012, two out of four of the indicators monitored by the USGS are under watch status. Residents can take a number of steps to conserve

water, including:

1. Install low-flow

plumbing fixtures and aerators on faucets.

2. Check for household leaks. A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water each day.
3. Take short showers instead of baths.
4. Replace older appliances with high-efficiency, front-loading models that use about 30 percent less water and 40 to 50 percent less energy.
5. Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads.
6. Keep water in the refrigerator to avoid running water from a faucet until it is cold.

For more info visit the USGS's PA Drought Monitoring website: <http://pa.water.usgs.gov/drought/> or DEP's website at www.dep.state.us, keyword: drought. For more tips on how to conserve water, visit Save Water PA: <http://www.savewaterpa.org>.



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Old Man Winter is Coming!



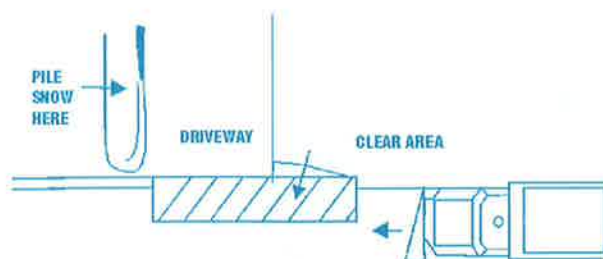
In our efforts to keep our residents safe we would like to remind everyone of their responsibility to keep your sidewalks shoveled and clear of ice and snow during the year. Under the International Property Maintenance Code, Section 302.3.1, where sidewalks exist, those responsible for sidewalks shall 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 repairing or 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 14th 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 15!

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 October 15 thru March 11. Registration is required at the court and this year it will cost \$25 per season to play.



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Please be aware of the Zoning Ordinance regarding the parking of boats and RVs in Amity Twp. Major recreational equipment, including but not limited to boats and boat trailers, travel trailers, pick-up campers or coaches, motorized dwellings, tent trailers or similar equipment, shall not be parked or stored on any public street or within any Zoning District, except in a carport, a completely enclosed building, a rear yard or a driveway provided such vehicle is parked behind the building setback line. Such equipment, however, may be parked for a period not exceeding two (2) successive days during loading or unloading. No such equipment shall be used for living, sleeping or housekeeping purposes when parked or stored in such location, unless a temporary permit is issued by the Township.

New Parking for Mouns Jones!

Township Road crews worked long hours this summer to create a new parking area at the Morlatton Village. The new parking lot will serve the Historic Preservation Trust's properties and the trail head for the Thun Trail and potentially the Leaf Creek Trail. In addition, the designer hopes the new lots will help with drainage in the area. The design was funded by a grant from Senator Rafferty. All the materials were paid with grant money from the Trust.



www.amitytownshippa.com

Mark your calendar!

Annual Amity Crime Watch, Inc. will host the annual community shredding event for residents and small businesses in the surrounding area on Saturday, May 20, 2013. The event will be held in Redner's Parking lot in Douglassville from 9:00am to Noon (rain or shine). For more information, please contact Susan at 610-385-3740. (businesses are limited to 10 boxes) Donations gladly accepted.

