



# Amity Township

VOLUME XI, ISSUE I

SPRING 2012

## Amity Township

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

[www.amitytownshippa.com](http://www.amitytownshippa.com)

### Supervisors

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

### Township Manager

Charles E. Lyon

### Township Hours

Mon.- Fri. 8am-5pm

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## Fire Safety Message

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely and contact the fire department immediately.

### Safety tips:

- use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has

exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:
- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle

from side to side.

- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equip-

Continued on pg.2

## Do Not Put Trash Receptacles in the Street!

It is dangerous to place your trash receptacles in the street. It makes snow plowing and street sweeping very difficult. And it is perilous for children and pedestrians as the sight distance is blocked. Please keep them on the curb.



# Lawn Care

Did you know...

By leaving grass clippings on the lawn, nitrogen application can be reduced by 30-40 percent?

Healthy trees and shrubs do not require annual fertilizer applications?

Chemical fertilizers can add salt to the soil and can harm soil structure. High salt concentrations can kill

soil building microorganisms and promote soil compaction. Grass clippings and compost are better answers, returning needed bacterial and enzymes to the soil along with nutrients.

Simple and practical tips like these are easily accessible. Call your Cooperative Extension Service or check your local library

for guidance.

The key is to know your soil and know your fertilizer if, in fact, you need additional nutrients.

Take the time to learn some simple landscaping techniques that can produce a healthy, green lawn and garden without polluting ground water or surface water.



## RECYCLING NEWS

**Hazardous Waste Collection**  
April 21

**Pharmaceutical Waste Collection and Paper Shredding**  
April 28

**Exeter Township Bldg**  
8am- 2pm

# Draining Your Swimming Pools

Clean Streams law prohibits discharge of chlorinated water to the storm sewers. With warmer weather approaching many residents are getting their pools ready for summer fun. Pool owners need to dispose of old water cor-

rectly and to neutralize waste water that contain harmful chemicals, such as chlorine. Most of all you need to make sure the wastewater is going into the sanitary sewer, not the storm sewer in the street. Discharging swimming pool water to

the commonwealth's waters without a permit violates the Clean Streams law. Property owners that violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages. For more information regarding handling of pool wastewater call PA DEP at 484-250-5970.

## Fire Safety cont.

ment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a rear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element

of a fire response plan, but the primary element is a safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms. Make sure your extinguisher is charged and disposed properly when expired.



**MyAmityGardens.com**

*Your Community Web Site!  
Resources, Information and Fun!*

\*Free Classified Ads \* Local Businesses \* Job Search  
\*Calendar \*Clubs & Organizations \*Kids' Page  
\*Real Estate \*Neighborhood History \*Pictures & More

Sponsored by Alan & Lydia Rieger  
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Alan: 610-639-4355, Lydia: 610-639-1439



# Environmental Advisory Council

The Amity Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) recently submitted a **T r e e V i t a l i z e** ([www.treevitalize.net](http://www.treevitalize.net)), 25% Township matching grant application to the Berks County Conservancy to obtain funding to plant additional trees at the Amity Community Park located next to the Daniel Boone

Middle School. Thirty new trees will be planted throughout the park to improve the shading and aesthetic quality of the Park. A



variety of Pennsylvania native trees will be planted in early October 2012 should the grant be approved. The EAC will be seeking community volunteer support to assist with the planting event. If you have any questions or interest in volunteering to assist in the

planting event, please contact the Township Secretary.

## Take a Hike!

With Spring weather upon us, take this opportunity to visit Monocacy Hill Recreation Area. The Monocacy Hill Conservation Association will sponsor a Spring Open House on May 20, 2012 from 9am to 5pm. Join them for a fitness hike at 10am, or a sunset hike at 7pm. Learn about MHCA

and meet our volunteers. There will be free refreshments and snacks. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at the Geiger Road parking lot. All hikes and walks are free to the public. Visit [www.monocacyhill.org](http://www.monocacyhill.org) for more information.



### Summer Youth and Adult Tennis Camps at Amity Community Park

Contact Garry Lucas (610-850-1349 or [glucas@dejazzd.com](mailto:glucas@dejazzd.com)) or Kim Cubero (610-301-7609 or [k\\_cubero10s@yahoo.com](mailto:k_cubero10s@yahoo.com)) for further information and details.



**Youth Safety Day**  
*Presented by the*  
**Daniel Boone**  
**Optimist Club and**  
**Amity Crime Watch**  
**Saturday, May 5**  
**10 am– 2pm**  
**Lake Drive Park**  
**Learn about bike**  
**safety! Kids in grades**  
**K-8 will be able to**  
**register to win a**  
**bicycle!**



610-582-2500 / 800-510-1855  
[allamericansepticsevice.com](http://allamericansepticsevice.com) / Fax: 610-582-2330

## ALL-AMERICAN SEPTIC SERVICE, INC.

Steve Chieffo Owner/Operator

P.O. Box 552, Douglassville, PA 19518



## Hearthstone at Amity

Personal Care Community

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To schedule a tour and lunch, learn about our move in specials!



**610-385-7600**

139 Old Swede Rd., Douglassville, PA

# Code Enforcement



As the spring and summer seasons approach, The Amity Township Code Enforcement Department would like to remind you of the importance of maintaining your property. More specifically, Amity Township Ordinance #266 states "No lawn on any lot shall be allowed to exceed ten (10) inches in height" Please make arrangement to maintain the height of your lawn.

Also, summer is the season

for everyone to add on to their homes, build a home, put up a fence, add a deck, put in pools and build storage sheds. Remember before you make improvements to your home, a permit must be obtained, if required.

Many permit applications are available and can be submitted online from the Amity Township's website, [www.amitytownship.com](http://www.amitytownship.com)

There is a lot of information

regarding permits and zoning regulations on the website as well.

When planning your project, please allow 7 to 10 business days for your permit to be processed.



### Tax Collector Hours

#### MARCH

Wednesdays  
10am- 2pm  
5pm-7pm  
(except March 21)

#### APRIL

Tuesdays  
5pm- 7pm  
Wednesdays  
10am-12 noon  
5pm-7pm

April 27 & 30  
5pm- 7pm

610-689-9227

## Have a Heart, Do Your Part!

Get in shape and walk/run for Childhood Cancer in the Daniel Boone Optimist Club's first 5K walk/run on Saturday, May 5, 2012. Registration starts at 8AM at Snap Fitness in the Douglassville East Shopping Center in the Redner's parking lot. (rain or shine) Each walker will be asked to find sponsors to donate funds.

The run starts at 9AM and ends at the Lake Drive Recreation Park where Youth Safety Days will be in progress. All proceeds will be donated to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). For more information please contact Shawn at [smm56@verizon.net](mailto:smm56@verizon.net). Send registration forms to the

Daniel Boone Optimist Club at 55 Winchester Court, Reading, PA 19606-9500. Get registration forms and information at [www.danielbooneoptimist.com](http://www.danielbooneoptimist.com)



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356 West Main Avenue, Myerstown  
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### Alvernia University Seniors College

presents 2012 Summer Series



**ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY**

**Thursday, May 24 at 1-2:30pm**  
"Change Your Attitude...Change Your Life"  
Instructor - Carol Hession

**Thursday, June 28 at 1-2:30pm**  
"Saint Francis of Assisi: An Enduring Model of Service and Peace"  
Instructor - Dr. Kevin M. Godfrey

**Thursday, July 26 at 1-2:30pm**  
"Understanding Greek Mythology in the Modern World"  
Instructor - John Kissinger



Please RSVP to 610-385-5021 for each FREE session held at Keystone Villa at Douglassville. Registration is required. [www.KeystoneVilla.com](http://www.KeystoneVilla.com)

# From the Chief of Police

## LOCK YOUR LOCKS!

In the perfect world, we would all be safe and secure. There are those, however, who believe that if it's not locked, barricaded or bolted to a fixed object, then they can take it as their own. The one area where this is an ongoing issue is theft of property from **UNLOCKED** cars. It is important that Amity Township residents lock

their cars, even if in their driveways. It only takes seconds to enter an unlocked car and remove a GPS, iPod, iPad, cell-phone or any other item of moveable property.

The above crime prevention tip also applies to your home. Many criminal acts are crimes of opportunity: criminals will exploit an opportunity. Criminal opportunity can be reduced when the

criminal is forced to take time, make noise or is exposed to view. An unlocked window, an open door can be an invitation. So secure those avenues of access to your home. Cut back those shrubs that hide your windows. Install exterior motion sensitive lighting. Most importantly, when you see a suspicious person or car, call the Amity Township Police at that time.



**Kent A. Shuebrook**  
Chief of Police

**Amity Township**  
**Crime Watch**  
**Community**  
**Shredding Event**  
**Saturday**  
**April 21**  
**9am to noon**  
**Redner's**  
**Parking Lot**

## Time to Sweep up all those Cinders

It's time to clean up those cinders. Road crews and the Township's contractor will be sweeping the streets starting April 16 through April 20. 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. Overhanging foliage creates hazards for pedestrians as well as drivers.



## **BOYERS** Market & Catering

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Appointments available Mon. - Sat.

# Amity Township Newsletter



2004 Weavertown Rd.  
Douglassville, PA 19518  
610-689-6000  
Fax 610-689-9870  
www.amitytownship.com

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## Recycle on April 20

To celebrate Earth Day, Chuck's Auto Salvage will be accepting automobile waste from 8am to 5pm on April 20. This is a good way to get rid of old car batteries, oil, fluids, tires (only 4 please) anything to do with automobiles that you may have laying around. Please help the Earth and dispose of this waste properly. Chuck's is located at 6867 Boyertown Pike.

Postal Patron

## Ways to Pay Your Sewer Bill

We still are offering you two possibilities to pay your bill. First, we have installed a secure drop box at the entrance to the municipal building so those of you that want to drop off your payment can deposit it in there. Secondly, the Township offers you secure automatic electronic payment withdrawals from your bank account. No more writing checks, no more worrying about losing your sewer bill. We just withdraw your quarterly payment on a specified day. If you are interested in automatic electronic payments, please contact the Township at 610-689-6000 ext. 225.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

*Don't Cuss. Call Us!*  
**Chuck's AUTO SALVAGE, Inc.**  
DOMESTIC & IMPORTED PARTS  
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm  
(610) 689-9574  
(877) 877-6699  
6867 Boyertown Pike  
Douglassville, PA 19518

Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired provides specialized services to eligible low-income residents who are blind or vision impaired so they can retain their independence. The support group meets at the Reading Library, Northeast Branch, on the second Wednesday of the month. The association provides a variety of programs including early childhood education, rehabilitation services, employment training, and industrial/manufacturing services. For more information about the Susquehanna Association of the Blind and Vision Impaired, please contact Kim Yakowski at 717-393-5894 ext. 4118.

