

Welcome to

AMITY TOWNSHIP

~ Berks County, PA ~



Volume XVI, Issue 1

Spring



Board of Supervisors

Kim McGrath, Chair
David Hackett, Vice-Chair
Terry Jones
Paul Weller
Richard Gokey

Township Manager

Troy S. Bingaman

Township Hours

Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm

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Spotted Lanternfly Update:

Look Before you LEAVE...

Amity Township has been under quarantine for the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) since November 2015. Residents slowly began seeing the pretty pest, with a flurry of sightings reported in early fall 2016.



The PA Department of Agriculture and USDA have joined efforts to educate the public and help prevent the spread of this destructive pest. Printed materials about the Spotted Lanternfly are available at the Township office.

What can you do to help?

Once a Township is under quarantine, residents are urged to LOOK and inspect anything stored outside for presence of egg masses and bugs. SCRAPE egg masses you may find, put them in a bag and add a few drops of alcohol or hand sanitizer. KILL any live bugs you find.

If you'd like to learn more about the SLF or are interested in volunteering to band trees, attend one of these public meetings:

- **Lehigh County Ag Center**, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown
Sat. April 22nd, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- **Brandywine Heights Middle School**, 200 W. Weis St., Topton
Wed. April 26th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Ruscombmanor Township Office**, 204 Oak Lane, Fleetwood
Thurs. April 27th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Milford Township Office**, 2100 Krammes Road, Quakertown
Sat. April 29th, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx

www.amitytownshippa.com

Township Building

2004 Weavertown Rd., Douglassville, PA 19518



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Krystle Chuong, D.D.S.**
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*Monday to Friday:
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*Saturday and Sunday:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

www.readinghealth.org

Amity and Monarch Fire Company News

Amity Fire Company Annual Fireman's

CARNIVAL

May 2nd to May 6th

GAMES – FOOD – RIDES – PRIZES

FIREWORKS on FRIDAY @ 9:00PM

Wristband Ride Specials – TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY



Monarch Fire Company

Spring is back, and Monarch Fire Company is ready to get cooking! Chicken BBQ sales are held on Saturdays in the Redner's parking lot from 10AM until sold out. The first Chicken BBQ of the season will be held at the end of April. Watch for signs around the Township.

Call 610-385-3310 for more information.

BASKET BINGO FUNDRAISER

SPONSORED BY THE AMITY TOWNSHIP LIONESS

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

DOORS OPEN AT NOON, BINGO BEGINS AT 1:00PM

PLACE: AMITY FIRE COMPANY • COST: \$20.00/PER PERSON

DOOR PRIZES + RAFFLE ITEMS

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

TICKETS/INFORMATION CALL LIONESS LINDA MCCUE AT 610-385-6421

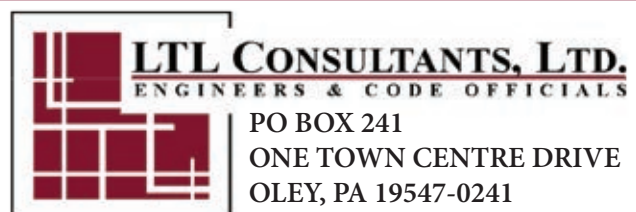


A Salute to the Service Garden is being planned at the Township Building. Visit our website www.amitytownshippa.com for additional information and sponsorship opportunities.

YOUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE!

AboutAmity.com

We Connect You to Resources:
Amity Community Education Center,
Community Events, Business Opportunities & More!
Sponsored by: Alan and Lydia Rieger
Contact us: Lydia@AboutAmity.com



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RECYCLING NEWS

Effective March 1st the recycling collection day changed from Friday to Wednesday. Wednesday collection allows the hauler to arrange for pick-up of missed locations before the weekend. We hope you find this new collection date to be convenient!

Have you ever had a full recycling bin way before it was time for pick-up? Are you going on vacation and will miss recycling collection day? The Township now has a container at the Municipal Building for just those times. Residents may now bring recyclables to the Township Building. The container is **RED** with **GREEN** recycling stickers. This container is for recycling **ONLY**. *Please, no plastic bags.*



Community Shredding Event

Amity Township Crime Watch

Saturday, April 22, 2017

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Redner's Parking Lot (Rain or Shine)

Douglassville, PA 19518



Open to residents and small businesses in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Shredding performed by ProShred of Paoli. Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding truck.

www.amitytwpcrimewatch.org
Susan/610-385-3740

www.proshred.com
484-323-2100

Help stop identity theft – shred your out-dated documents!

Street Sweeping and Brush Pick Up

The road crew and Township Contractor will begin sweeping cinders from April 18th through April 28th, weather permitting. Sweeping is done between the hours of 7AM and 5PM. Streets will be posted. Vehicles should be removed from the street for crews to clean up as quickly and efficiently as possible. Vehicles that are not removed will be towed at the owner's expense.

As warmer weather approaches, please trim bushes and trees back from sidewalks and right-of-ways, especially where there are stop signs or street signs. Overgrown or overhanging foliage creates hazards for pedestrians and drivers.

The Township provides (2) forty-yard containers at the Municipal Building where residents can bring brush and leaves. **NO STUMPS, please!**

Amity Township is now on Facebook www.facebook.com/AmityTownship/ - Visit our Facebook today for important updates within your community!



Berks County Solid Waste Authority

Collection Events

Electronic & Tire Recycling Events

EVERY Tues, Thurs, & Sat
8AM until NOON
1316 Hilltop Rd, Leesport



Community Shredding

8AM until 2PM
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
600 Governor Drive, Shillington
Saturday, October 14, 2017
Berks County Ag Center
1238 County Welfare Rd,
Leesport



Hazardous Household Waste Collection Dates

8AM until 2PM – Rain or Shine!
Saturday, October 21, 2017
Berks County Ag Center
1238 County Welfare Rd, Leesport



Earth Day is Friday, April 21st



To celebrate Earth Day, Chuck's Auto Salvage will be accepting automobile waste from 8AM until 5PM on Friday, April 21st. This is a good way to get rid of old car batteries, oil, fluid, tires (only 4 please), or anything to do with automobiles that you may have laying around. **Chuck's will not be accepting gasoline this year.**

This year, Chuck's will donate \$15 to charity for every battery received. Please help the Earth and dispose of this waste properly. Chuck's Auto Salvage, located at 6867 Boyertown Pike, is the home of Green Recycled Parts.

Your Tax Dollars At A Glance

Have you ever tried to determine where your real estate tax dollars go? If you're confused, you're not alone. Everyone understands that tax bill increases mean more money out-of-pocket. What some people may not realize, is what percentage is paid to your Township, County and School District. This illustration is a good way to see exactly how each dollar of your taxes are distributed.

2016/17 Real Estate Tax



Township
2.45
6¢

County
7.372
19¢

DB School
29.7
75¢

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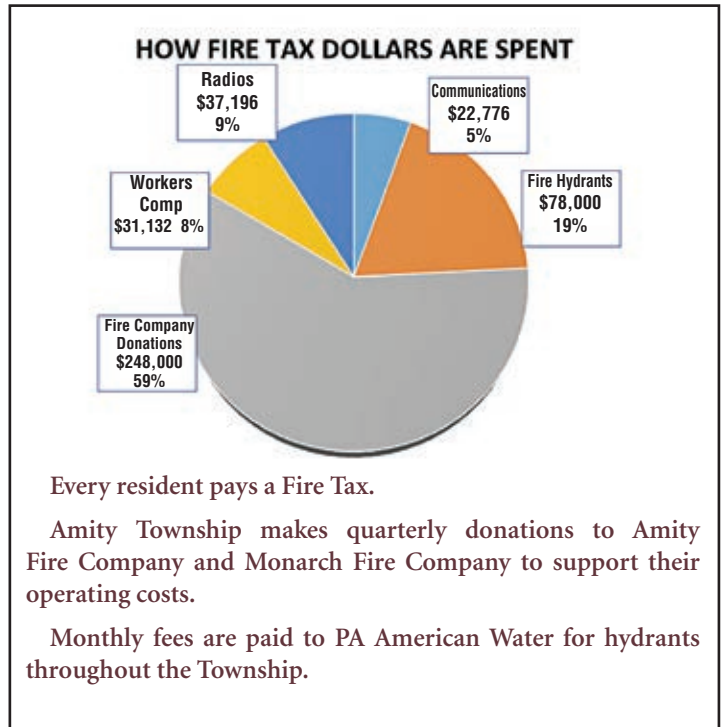
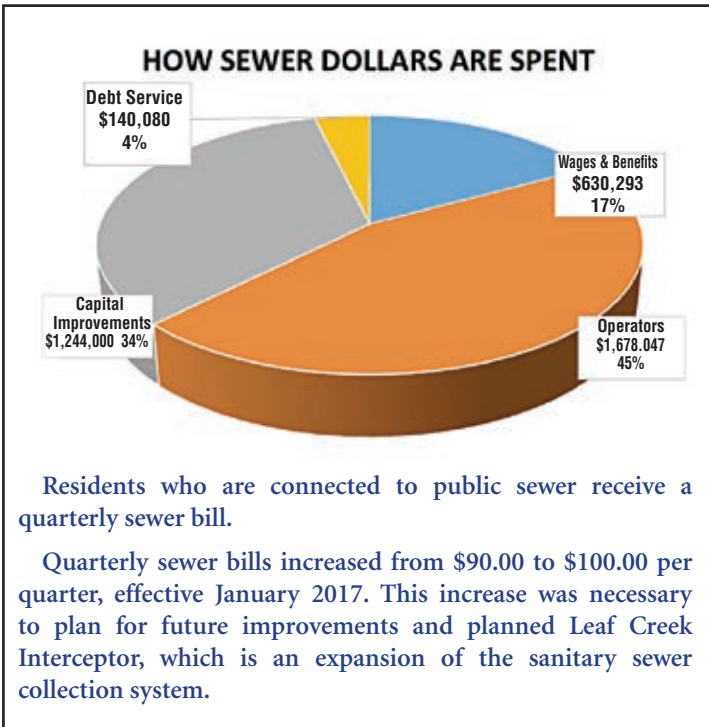
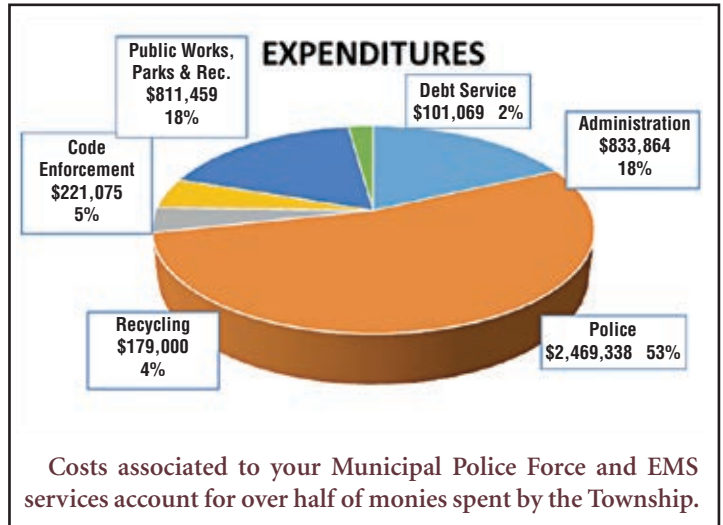
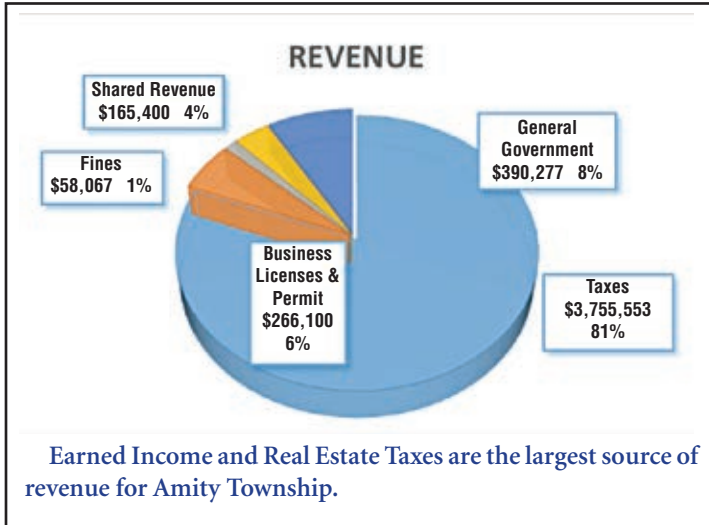
BIRDSBORO: 610-582-6888
POTTSTOWN: 610-327-1699

WE PUMP WHAT YOU DUMP

BUDGET & TAXES

Let's talk TAXES. Everyone feels the crunch of rising costs of living; such as increases in healthcare, fuel, energy, and groceries. These same rising costs impact Amity Township's budget. Through the past ten years, the Township has absorbed many of these rising costs. The Amity Township Board of Supervisors voted to increase real estate taxes from 1.95 to 2.45 mils for 2017 to continue managing the Township efficiently and to expand our Police Department.

Amity Township Budget Talk



Tax Collector Hours

Dean Fronheiser is the Amity Township Tax Collector. Stop by the Township Office at 2004 Weavertown Road during set office hours as follows:

April: Wednesdays from 10AM until NOON and from 5PM to 7PM • Thursdays from 5PM to 7PM
 Saturday, APRIL 22nd and 29th from 5PM to 7PM • Thursday, JUNE 29th and Friday, JUNE 30th from 5PM to 7PM

When It Rains, It Drains

Understanding Storm Water and How It Can Affect Your Money, Safety, Health and the Environment

What Happens When it Rains?



Rain is an important part of nature's water cycle, but there are times it can do more damage than good. Problems related to storm water runoff can include:

Flooding caused by too much storm water flowing over hardened surfaces such as roads and parking lots, instead of soaking into the ground.



Increases in spending on maintaining storm drains and the storm sewer system that become clogged with excessive amounts of dirt and debris.



Decreases in sportfish populations because storm water carries sediment and pollutants that degrade important fish habitat.

More expensive treatment technologies to remove harmful pollutants carried by storm water into our drinking water supplies.



Closed beaches due to high levels of bacteria carried by storm water that make swimming unsafe.

We can help rain restore its good reputation while protecting our health and environment while saving money for ourselves and our community. Keep reading to find out how...

What is Storm Water?

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called storm water runoff.

Why is Storm Water "Good Rain Gone Wrong?"

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Storm water travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or coastal water. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because storm water does not get treated!



Pet wastes left on the ground get carried away by storm water, contributing harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses to our water.

Vehicles drip fluids (oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluids, etc.) onto paved areas where storm water runoff carries them through our storm drains and into our water.



Chemicals used to grow and maintain beautiful lawns and gardens, if not used properly, can run off into the storm drains when it rains or when we water our lawns and gardens.

Waste from chemicals and materials used in construction can wash into the storm sewer system when it rains. Soil that erodes from construction sites causes environmental degradation, including harming fish and shellfish populations that are important for recreation and our economy.

Restoring Rain's Reputation: What Everyone Can Do To Help

Rain by nature is important for replenishing drinking water supplies, recreation, and healthy wildlife habitats. It only becomes a problem when pollutants from our activities like car maintenance, lawn care, and dog walking are left on the ground for rain to wash away. Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution:

- ✓ Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies and paint – NEVER pour them down any part of the storm sewer system and report anyone who does!
- ✓ Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- ✓ Install innovative storm water practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens, that capture storm water and keep it on-site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.
- ✓ Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess – in a backyard or at the park – storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to a stream.
- ✓ Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to storm water.

Continue the Information Flow...

Your Community is preventing storm water pollution through a storm watermanagement program. This program add resses storm water pollution from construction, new development, illegal dumping to the storm sewer system, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices in municipal operations. It will also continue to educate the community and get everyone involved in making sure the only thing the storm water contributes to our water is...water!

Visit our website at www.amitytownship.com/wp/ms4-stormwater-program/ or the PADEP website at www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/default.aspx for more information about storm water management.

Continued on page 8

Test Your Storm Sewer System Savvy!

What does the storm sewer system look like in your community? See if you can identify which pictures are part of the storm sewer system.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
www.dep.state.pa.us

Answers to Test Your Storm Sewer System Savvy:

1. **Ditch** – Part of the storm sewer systems. Most people think the system is just a series of underground pipes. It can also include ditches used to convey storm water from the land to a receiving lake, river, or stream.
2. **Fire Hydrant** – Not part of the storm sewer system. Water sprayed from fire hydrants is allowed by law to enter the storm sewer system.
3. **Curb with Storm Drain Inlet** – Part of the storm sewer system. Many people do not realize that this is an opening leading to the storm sewer system. Anything going into this inlet (trash, leaves, hazardous materials) travels directly to a receiving lake, river or stream without being treated first.
4. **Storm Sewer Outlet** – Part of the storm sewer system. An outfall is where storm water drains from the storm sewer system input a receiving lake, stream or river. If there is a flow from an outlet where it isn't raining there could be a problem with the system or someone has used a storm drain for illegally disposing of materials.
5. **Toilet** – Not part of the storm sewer system. Waste water from sinks and toilets in houses and businesses travel through a sewer system constructed to carry sanitary wastes. In some instances, older communities may have a combined sewer system designed to carry both storm water and sanitary waste.
6. **Septic System** – Not part of the storm sewer system. Homeowners use septic tanks to manage to manage sanitary wastes on-site. Improperly maintained septic systems can leak and contribute pollutants to the storm sewer system, as well as directly to lakes, rivers and streams.
7. **Roads and Other Paved Acres** – Not part of the storm sewer system. Roads and other hardened surfaces such as parking lots and sidewalks can accumulate pollutants (oil, grease, dirt, leaves, trash, pet waste) that storm water eventually washes into the storm sewer system.
8. **Storm Drain Inlet** – Part of the storm sewer system. This is another example of what a storm drain may look like. Like the storm drain inlet, anything that enters this drain will go directly to streams, rivers and lakes without being treated first. It is important to recognize this as a storm drain to prevent it from being used as a trash can.

MONOCACY HILL SPRING 2017 ACTIVITIES



Spring is in the air! Catch some spring fever and join the MHCA volunteers on a walk along the trails at Monocacy Hill.

Dogs are permitted at Monocacy Hill but must be on a leash and under the owner's control at all times.

- APRIL** SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND – EARTH DAY HIKE – 1:30PM, *hike for youth and family*
 SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD – WILDFLOWER WALK – 1:30 PM
- MAY** SUNDAY, MAY 7TH – BIRDWALK with SIERRA CLUB – 7:45 AM
OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY, MAY 7th – 10AM to 5PM, Raindate: MAY 21ST
 WALK IN THE WOODS – 11:00 AM
 WILDFLOWER WALK – 1:30 PM, with Dr. Susan Munch
 SUNSET HIKE – 7:00 PM
 SUNDAY, MAY 21ST – WALK IN THE WOODS – 1:30 PM
- JUNE** SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH – WALK IN THE WOODS – 11:30 AM



Amity Township Junior Tennis Summer League June 12th through July 28th

LOCATION: Daniel Boone Middle School Tennis Courts
COST: \$120.00 for 7 weeks of fun instruction and match play!
 \$214.00 Trail Blazers* 7 weeks, twice a week instruction, and match play!
 *Trail Blazers please contact Kim Cubero at 610-301-7609 for recommendation.
REGISTRATION: Opens April 18, 2017 Racquets available for purchase.

THURSDAY MATCH DAY

Match time for Children ages 10 and under will be 5:00 – 6:00 pm.
 Match time for Trail Blazers and Children ages 11-14 will be 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

How to Register:

- Step 1:** Visit: <http://teamentennis.usta.com> and click “Have a Team ID#”.
- Step 2:** Enter the Team ID #. Make your selection based on the age of your child & time of practice found below.

Children Ages 5-8	Children Ages 9-10	Children Ages 11-14	Trail Blazers
Tuesday: 5:00 – 6:00 pm Enter Team # 3508320517	Monday: 5:00 – 6:30 pm Enter Team #3508320520	Wednesday: 5:00 – 6:30 pm Enter Team #3508320522	Monday AND Wednesday 6:30 – 8:00 pm Enter Team #3508320535
Friday: 8:30 – 9:30 am Enter Team #3508320519	Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:30 am Enter Team #3508320521		Adults: Tuesday: 6:00 – 7:00 pm Contact: Kim Cubero

- Step 3:** Enter your child's USTA Membership ID# or Non-Member Team Tennis ID#. Don't have a number: Click on the link to either join the USTA OR sign up for a Non-Member Team Tennis ID#.

Step 4: Proceed to check out!



Burglary Prevention Advice from Officer Friendly!



The most common threat to our home is burglary. Since 2016 we have had 18 reported burglaries within Amity Township. According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds. The majority of homes break-ins occur during daylight hours between 9am and 3pm when most folks are at work or in school. To make your home an unattractive target, I want all of my Amity Township residents to do these few simple things:

- Invest in a home security system- homes without security systems are two to three times more likely to be broken into.
- Make sure you have the appropriate outside lighting- burglars tend to drive by a well-lit home.
- Make sure you have strong exterior doors- solid wood or metal is recommended.
- Make sure you have locks for your pet doors- easy access point.
- KEEP GARAGE DOORS CLOSED AND LOCKED!
- Never discuss vacation plans in public and refrain from advertising on social media.
- Pick up an Amity Township Vacation Check Form or download it online.
- Close curtains or blinds.
- Ensure your address is visible for police.
- Lock your doors and windows.

Chief Andrew J. Kensey



SCAM ALERT!

Many of our Resident Seniors have fallen victim to the Crime of Fraud. In Amity Township, The Grandparent Scam seems to be most prevalent.

One of our unsuspecting victims received a phone call from an unknown person identifying himself as the victim's grandson. He indicated he was incarcerated for a drug related offense and needed money to bail out of jail.

The suspect(s) insisted that the complainant purchase Visa gift cards from Wal-Mart to use as a form of payment.

THE SCAM!

Usually the Scammer will place a phone call to our non-suspecting victim(s), and say something like, "Hi, Grandpa, do you know who this is?"

When our victims guess the name of the grandchild the scammer most sounds like, they have established their credibility.

Once they have our victim(s) scammed they will ask for money to help with a problem such as car repairs, rent money, etc. As I previously mentioned in the Amity Case it was specific to needing bail out money for a narcotics related offense that the alleged grandson had been involved in.

PAYMENT!

The Scammers will ask to be paid with Money Gram, Western Union, or in Amity's Case, Gift Cards. These are forms of payment that do not require any form of identification.



WE CAN HELP!

If you suspect, you have been a victim:

- Immediately Call the Amity Township Police Department (911)- we will help
- Do not hesitate or feel embarrassed- you're not alone
- Not reporting the incident could make it worse for others
- Know your Banking Institutions phone number
- Know the number of the Berks County Area on Aging (610) 478-6500- they will help

"Our seniors are preyed upon because of their reliability and good hearted nature."

"Let's stop the scammers in their tracks."

Respectfully,
Chief Andrew J. Kensey

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Secret Santa from Amity Township Police Department



Amity Township Police Department was invited to participate in a Secret Santa this past Christmas. Some very kind and generous people gave happiness to a local family. I want to personally thank the people that made this possible. You are wonderful people and did something great for a family that deserves greatness. I am proud to be your Chief and a resident!
Chief Kensey

Amity Township Police Department is on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/Amity-Township-Police-Department-246138828782977/

Like us on Facebook and stop by for current news and helpful hints.



Ordinance 290

No recreational vehicles or equipment, including but not limited to, boats and boat trailers, pick-up campers or coaches, motorized dwellings, tent trailers or similar equipment, shall be parked or stored on any public street. Ordinance 290 states that such recreational vehicles or equipment may be parked on the public street temporarily for the purpose of loading and unloading such vehicle, in which case it may be temporarily parked for not more than twenty-four (24) hours in each week (Sunday through Saturday).

Violators will be assessed a fine of \$40.00, payable to the Amity Township Police Department within 15 days from the date of violation.



Summers Nagy Law Offices

Jill E. Nagy
Esquire

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PennDOT will be replacing a State maintained box culvert on Weavertown Road just east of Limekiln Road. The Project began in early March and is expected to last through July 19th. During construction, a detour will be in place. Please follow the signs (Limekiln Road to Monocacy Hill Road to Geiger Road and back onto Weavertown Road). We appreciate your patience while this infrastructure improvement project is being completed.

Do You Need a Permit?

As warmer weather approaches, it's the perfect time to complete those projects around the house! Please check below to find out what requires a permit and what does not. If you have any other questions please call 610-689-6000, ext. 232.



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
- Finishing of Basements

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 or hot tubs 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
- Invisible dog fences
- fish ponds
- Window Replacement of same size and type



What you should know about SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The most important things you need to know are smoke alarms save lives and they should be in every home. Follow these important smoke alarm safety measures.



- **Make sure your smoke alarms are working.**

This means testing smoke alarms monthly, replacing batteries once a year or when low-battery alarm chirps and performing other maintenance as NFPA and your smoke alarm manufacturers recommend. And of course, a smoke alarm disabled because of nuisance alarms provide no protection at all.

- **It is important to have not just one smoke alarm but smoke alarms in every location required by NFPA standards.**

(On each level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom.) Tens of millions of U.S. homes are estimated to have smoke alarms but not enough smoke alarms to meet the standards and protect their homes.

- **Interconnect your smoke alarms so that a fire detected by any smoke alarm will sound an alarm at every location where a smoke alarm is installed.**

Interconnection can be done using hard-wiring or wireless broadcast technology. Interconnected smoke alarms provide early warning of fires that are still far away or are located on the other side of a door or wall that may block sound.

- **Develop and practice an escape plan so that everyone in the home knows what to do if the alarm sounds.**

That includes planning a second way out from every room in your home. Every household that develops and practices an escape plan with two ways out from every location improves its time to escape in every fire.

There are Different Types of Smoke Alarm Technologies – Ionization and Photoelectric

The two most commonly recognized smoke detection technologies are ionization smoke detection and photoelectric smoke detection. Ionization smoke detection is generally more responsive to fires and photoelectric smoke detection is generally more responsive to fires that begin with a long period of smoldering (called “smoldering fires”). For each type of smoke alarm, the advantage it provides may be critical to life safety in some fire situations.

Home fatal fires, day or night, include a large number of smoldering fires and a large number of flaming fires. You can not predict the type of fire you may have in your home when it will occur. Any smoke alarm technology, to be acceptable, must perform acceptably for both types of fires in order to provide early warning of fire at all times of the day or night and whether you are asleep or awake.

The best evidence has always indicated that either type of smoke alarm will provide sufficient time for escape for most people for most fires of either smoldering or flaming type. However, research is ongoing, and standards are living documents. If at any time, research points to a different conclusion, then that will lead to proposals for changes in the NFPA standard or the closely related Underwriters Laboratories standard for testing and approving smoke alarms. Both organizations currently have task groups looking at smoke alarm performance in the current home environment.

For Best Protection Use Both Types of Smoke Alarm Technologies

For best protection both (ionization and photoelectric) technologies are to be in homes. In addition to individual ionization and photoelectric alarms, combination alarms that include both technologies in a single device are available.

Nuisance Alarms Can Be Minimized

Ionization type smoke alarms are more susceptible to nuisance alarms due to cooking, the leading cause of nuisance alarms, but have susceptibility to nuisance alarms from the steam from a hot shower.

In the past decade or so, a number of steps have been taken to reduce the likelihood of nuisance alarms, including hush features and refinements to installation rules that include distances from nuisance sources.

TV Demonstrations of Smoke Alarm Performances Can Be Misleading

Informal demonstrations, such as ones done for TV news shows, of smoke alarm performance can seriously mislead the viewer and do not provide a sound basis to assess performance. These demonstration tests are not performed in a controlled or scientific way that compares the time of smoke alarm operation to the time when occupants would be incapacitated. The selected fire scenarios may not be representative of real fatal home fires. Passing or failing a “test” of this sort may have nothing to do with performing well or badly in the wide range of real fires. A valid engineering analysis must select fires that are realistic and analyze them accordingly.

In an informal demonstration, the eye reacts to conditions that look dangerous, mostly visible smoke and visible flame. However, most people are killed by invisible gases, which do not necessarily spread at the same rate as smoke or flame. A valid engineering analysis must measure conditions caused by fires and assess them according to their real danger.

www.nfpa.org/education



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Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to their portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.
- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

FACT
CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

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