

Welcome to AMITY TOWNSHIP

~ Berks County, PA ~



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Township Hours

Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm

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WINTERFEST



Pictured above: Frozen's Elsa and Olaf braved the cold for a meet and greet at Winterfest.

Even Mother Nature couldn't stop Amity Township's Winterfest. Rain on New Year's Eve pushed the celebration to New Year's Day. A huge crowd gathered at Amity Community Park on New Year's Day, braving temperatures in the 40's with gusty winds. Everyone danced their way into the new year with music by the Stephanie Grace Band. Kids played in the inflatables park and crowds formed around the giant snow globe taking pictures and selfies to create their own memories as Amity Township began their year-long celebration for turning 300 years old! The evening concluded with a beautiful display of fireworks provided by Douglassville Veterinary Clinic. Special thanks go out to Kozloff/Stoudt Attorneys, our Festival Sponsor.

Don't miss out on memories of years past! The 300th Celebration Commemorative Book will be printed in early spring 2019 and will be a limited print run. The book will feature about 70 pages of Amity Township facts and photos of the past and present. Proceeds will benefit the 300th Celebration and the Amity Heritage Society. Just like the 250th book, this book is sure to become a collector's item. Be sure to get yours! They will be available at all events for \$20 or can be pre-ordered online through Lucky Squirrel Printworks <https://luckypw.squarespace.com/amity-township-commemorative-book/amity-township-300th-commemorative-book> for the special pre-order price of \$15.00 through February 28th.



If you enjoyed Winterfest, you won't want to miss the Amity Jamboree being held on Saturday, May 18th. The day will begin with a 5K run, followed by a parade at approximately 10:30 with the procession ending at Amity Community Park. We have a lot in store and look forward to seeing you there! Kids will enjoy working out some energy in the inflatables. Enjoy the incredible Josh² Band from noon until 4PM. Peruse the artisan and vendor stands. Stop by our wine and beer gardens for sampling of a variety of wines and beers from the area. Later in the day, around 4PM, enjoy the acoustic sounds of the very talented Cody Tyler. Come enjoy the free inflatables and concerts, and don't forget to bring your appetite! Food trucks will be at the park throughout the day with a variety of foods for purchase. Bring your lawn chair or blanket to spend the day relaxing and helping Amity Township celebrate our 300th birthday!

www.amitytownshippa.com

Phone 610-689-6000

Township Building
2004 Weavertown Rd., Douglassville, PA 19518



Services

- Residential
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Saturday and Sunday:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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PADEP Recycling Grant Awarded!

The Township was awarded \$203,487.00 through a PADEP Recycling Grant. Exciting plans are in store for our yard waste and curbside recycling program. \$70K was put towards the purchase of a 2019 Freightliner dump truck and a second leaf vacuum will provide more efficient leaf collection. Our biggest change is to expand our services and collect 2019 Christmas trees. A portion of the grant money will be used to purchase a 12-inch gasoline-powered wood chipper. The road crew will collect and chip Christmas trees. The mulched product will be offered to residents on a first-come, first-serve basis.

We realize our yard waste dumpsters get very full! A third yard waste dumpster will be located at the Township building to prevent the containers from becoming overfilled. Being able to mulch yard waste will also help provide more space in the yard waste containers. The Township plans to begin preparing the chipping site after winter.

We hope the improvements made to curbside pick-up and leaf collection will provide better options and encourage even more recycling within our Township, providing renewable resources for generations to come.

Recycling Collection

Recycling is collected by Eagle Disposal on Wednesdays. Weeks where the holiday falls on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday recycling will be collected on Thursday. Recycling is single-stream; meaning you place all metal, paper, cardboard, glass and plastic into your recycling containers. These materials are sorted at the recycling processing center. You should have received a notice from Eagle Disposal for their 2019 collection dates. This information can also be found on our website at www.amitytownship.com.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL WASTE

The Amity Township Police Department has a Medication Drop Box located in the front lobby of the Township Building located at 2004 Weavertown Road. The purpose of the Medication Drop Box is to dispose of these items in a safe and efficient manner further preventing children from being exposed to medications. Township residents are encouraged to bring their expired, unwanted, or unused prescription medications (or over the counter medications) to dispose of them in the Medication Drop Box. Medications may be dropped off anytime Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm (excluding holidays).



Items that are NOT ACCEPTED in the Medication Drop Box are:

- NEEDLES • Bio Hazardous Waste • Aerosol Cans
- Inhalers • Liquids

What is the proper way to dispose of needles? Needles are considered “sharps”. Syringes, lancets and any devices with points or edges that can puncture or cut the skin are also considered sharps. Place them in a strong plastic container, such as those used for laundry soap, bleach or kitty litter. When the bottle is ¾ full, put the lid on it and seal the container with duct tape and label DO NOT RECYCLE. Place the container in the trash, NEVER in the recycling container. You can also locate a sharps disposal location at safeneedledisposal.org.

**Keystone Villa**
AT DOUGLASSVILLE
A DISTINCTIVE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Walk-In Wednesdays 2-4 pm

Thinking about retirement living? Join us for a tour of our newly decorated one-bedroom model apartment. Learn about our services which offer an affordable monthly lease with no buy-in fee. No appointment necessary! We look forward to seeing you!

610-385-5002



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alerberks.org

**TEXT ALERTBERKS AT 847411 WITH
A CRIME TIP OR CALL 1.877.373.9913**

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT



Amity Township Crime Watch
Saturday, April 27, 2019 (Rain or Shine)
9:00 A.M. to Noon
Redner's Parking Lot • Douglassville



There will be TWO TRUCKS available at this event!

Open to residents and small businesses in Douglassville and surrounding areas.
Shredding is done by ProShred Security of Paoli.
Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding trucks.

www.amitytwpcrimewatch.org

Susan - 610-385-3740

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BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY RECYCLING EVENTS

Hazardous Household Waste Collection - April 13th from 8:00AM to 2:00PM

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, 600 Governor Drive, Shillington
FREE to all Berks County Residents! Event will be held rain or shine!

Electronic Recycling Center - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:00AM to NOON

1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport FREE to all Berks County Residents

Tire Recycling Center - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:00AM to NOON

1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport **Fees apply per Berks County Fee Schedule.

Paper Shredding - April 20th from 8:00AM to 2:00PM

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, 600 Governor Drive, Shillington
FREE to all Berks County Residents

For more information regarding the Berks County Recycling events and programs, please visit www.co.berks.pa.us/swa or call 610-478-6362.



Going on Vacation?

Going on vacation? Don't forget to let the police know! The Amity Township Police Department will periodically check on your house when you are away. Simply stop by the Amity Township Police Department and fill out a vacation house check form or visit the Township website.



Amity Township now has the ability to send the community emergency and important information via "push" notifications to your phone and e-mails. This may include road closures, flooding, snow and police information. This can be done at a first responder level (police officers) as well as Township management.

Download the CRIMEWATCH App and make Amity Township your "home" Police Department. You may have to enable "push" and e-mail notifications. Please note, if you already had the CRIMEWATCH app, you MUST delete it from your phone and reinstall the new app in order for notifications to work. See the links below:

For Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.crimewatchus.CRIMEWATCH&hl=en_US

For iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/crimewatch-mobile/id875155204?mt=8>





SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Winter keeps the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) away! That's the good news. The bad news is they will be back! Surely, before the next newsletter issue is mailed you'll be seeing them in your back yards and on your trees. Be sure to stay up-to-date on the newest ways to manage the SLF by visiting the PA Department of Agriculture, Penn State Extension and Amity Township websites.

As you begin planning those spring projects, will you be hiring a contractor? Are you a contractor who will be doing work in the Township or anywhere within a SLF quarantined area? A Spotted Lanternfly permit is required for those businesses, organizations and agencies located or working within the quarantine, who move vehicles, products or other conveyances within or out of the quarantine. Some businesses have already registered with the PA Department of Agriculture and obtained necessary permitting. Please check with your contractor to make sure they have the proper permit.

The following counties are currently under quarantine:

- Berks
- Bucks
- Carbon
- Chester
- Delaware
- Lancaster
- Lebanon
- Lehigh
- Monroe
- Montgomery
- Northampton
- Philadelphia
- Schuylkill

Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture have developed a self-paced, online course to train designated business employees on how to comply with the quarantine. This course will teach the designated employees what they need to know about the Spotted Lanternfly through short, informative videos. They will learn the SLF lifecycle and how to identify each life stage, what it likes to eat, and where it likes to lay its eggs. They will also learn how to find and destroy spotted lanternflies and their egg masses, best practices for working in the quarantine zone and the best ways to eliminate the SLF. There are three sections in the course. **Once a designated employee passes this course, his or her company will receive SLF permits for company vehicles.** The designated employee must train fellow employees to work in the quarantine zone without inadvertently spreading these insects and endangering agriculture and commerce. Downloadable training materials, including PowerPoint presentations and fact sheets, are available in the course. If you have questions about the permitting process, email the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: slfpermit@pa.gov.

The PA Department of Agriculture will begin conducting verification checks for permits required by businesses beginning May 1, 2019.

Thank you for doing your part to control the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly.

Oh no! More snow!

AMITY TOWNSHIP
Berks County

SNOW REMINDER

Section 104 of the Amity Township Code of Conduct makes it unlawful to plow, shovel or otherwise cause snow to be deposited onto a public street. This practice can cause accidents and necessitate additional costs for snow removal. Penalties include fines and costs not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Section 403 of the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Code of Amity Township requires for any winter storm where there is accumulation of an inch or more of ice and snow, all motor vehicles must be removed from public streets. This is to allow the Township plows to do their job quickly and efficiently. Penalties include fines up to \$100.00, towing and costs. Parking cars side by side in your driveway will help road crews when plowing and help you shovel less snow in your driveway!



Limerick Generating Station Sirens

We've grown accustomed to hearing fire, police and ambulance sirens. But what about those sirens heard blaring from towers located within and around the Township? Resistance checks and preventative maintenance tests are done as crews are available. If you hear a non-scheduled siren, a truck should be at the tower. If it is not, you may call 610-655-4911 to inquire if there is an emergency. Those sirens are part of the notification process for the nuclear power plant known as the Limerick Generating Station (LGS). This is what you need to know about the LGS sirens:



There are two types of siren tests conducted in communities surrounding the LGS:

Semi-Annual Test: This two-minute sounding of the siren occurs at 2:00PM on the first Monday in June and first Monday in December

Monthly Test: This abbreviated sounding of the siren occurs at 2:00PM on the first Monday of every month, except June and December. The approximately one-second long "growl" sound of the siren may or may not be heard.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Your Township is prepared. Are you? As governed by Title 35, each municipality is required to have an emergency operations plan (EOP). Amity Township is partially within the 10-mile EPZ of the Limerick Generating Station and maintains a Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) as an annex to our EOP. These plans document how the municipality works with contacts and resources at the local, County and State levels. The plans are continually updated and all responding agencies receive training annually and exercise the plan biannually to ensure readiness. Your Township officials and staff will be participating in a drill for emergency preparedness this coming November. You can find annual updates to the Limerick Generating Station emergency planning brochure on the LGS website. Review this document and know where your children will be taken if an emergency happens during the school day. Where will you meet? What should you take with you should the area be evacuated? Make a plan and share that plan with your family.



Last year's Summer Playground Program was a huge SUCCESS! We will be offering a similar program again this summer for children ages 5 through 12. The program will run from June 17th through August 9th. Children will be guided through fun and educational activities by our carefully selected counselors. Our Playground Leader and Camp Counselors are busy planning. Please watch for additional information about the program and how to register on the Township's website and Facebook page.



We get so much love from our pets. Make sure you are loving them in return by making sure they are licensed. New Year, new dog license! PA State Law requires all dogs over 3 months of age to be licensed. Owners of unlicensed dogs are subject to fines not to exceed \$300.00. Regular and senior citizen dog licenses can be purchased online at www.padoglicense.com or you may go in-person to any of the locations listed at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Treasurer/Pages/DogLicenses.aspx>.

We've all seen the sad eyes of those puppies and cats on LOST papers posted to telephone poles. Don't let that happen to your pet. Microchipping is an inexpensive and permanent way to identify your pet and reunite them with you in the event they ever stray. The chip is the size of a grain of rice and is permanently inserted just under your pet's skin using a syringe. Each chip contains a unique number. You register your information with that number. When your pet is found, anyone with a chip reader can scan, find owner information and return the pet to their happy home. Some local pet stores, the Animal Rescue League and the Humane Society of Berks County offer microchipping at a cost of approximately \$20.00 or less!

Microchipping also helps keep costs down for the Township and ultimately YOU, our taxpayer. Here's how: **Stray animals should be reported by calling 610-655-4911**. An operator at the Berks County 9-1-1 call center will dispatch an Amity Township Police Officer to your location. The officer will attempt to identify the animal by using a microchip reader. If the pet has been chipped, the reader will register the owner's information they provided at the time of registration and the animal will be returned to its rightful owner. If a stray animal is not identified, the Township could incur costs for sheltering, medications or more. If your animal is picked up and not chipped, you will be charged for those services.

Another way to keep costs down for your municipality is stop feeding stray cats. These cats may carry disease and potentially infect you or those you love. If a stray cat is fed, chances are they're part of a colony and this will attract even more strays. Do your part and don't feed strays.



Support Your Local Dairy Farmer

Making the choice to buy local milk is important for your health, your family's health, your local community and the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania-produced milk and dairy products can be found in grocery stores, markets and local restaurants. There are two ways to know if the milk you purchase is Pennsylvania dairy.



PA Preferred

The surest way to know your milk is 100% Pennsylvania is to look for the PA Preferred logo. PA Preferred is a state branding campaign to ensure consumers they're supporting agribusinesses from their home state. Processors distributing milk with the PA Preferred logo on the final product are required to source 100% of their dairy from Pennsylvania farmers.

Plant Code 42

If you can't find the PA Preferred logo on milk in your grocery store dairy case, look for the plant code. Milk with a plant code beginning with "42" means the milk is processed in Pennsylvania and sourced predominantly from Pennsylvania dairy farms.

Plant codes are usually printed near the top of the container or on the lid, sometimes they're printed right on the label. The first, and most important, part of the code will always be two numbers (between 01 and 56 – this identifies the state where the milk was processed. Pennsylvania's magic number is 42!



Pennsylvania's Dairy Facts

- 5th Largest Milk Producer
- Second Largest Number of Dairy Farms in US
- Home to 7,370 dairy farms & 530,000 cows
- Produces Nearly 1.3 Billion Gallons of Milk Annually
- Largest Segment of PA's Agricultural Industry
- Represents 30% of Ag Revenue in PA
- Provides Nearly \$7 Billion in Economic Revenue
- Supports Nearly 60,000 Jobs Across PA

Find more information at the centerfordairyexcellence.org.



The State Route 562, Boyertown Pike bridge at Spotts Mill will remain closed through late May 2019.

All traffic entering Spotts Mill will continue to use Old Airport Road. Please continue following detour signs, watch for construction vehicles and drive safely.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this closure.

Join Us for **Summer Camp 2019**

Camp Manatawny

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Grades 1 thru 12
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Grades 1 thru 6

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Taxes

Nobody likes to talk about taxes or tax increases, but it's important to understand what you pay in taxes and to whom. The largest portion of your taxes are paid to the Daniel Boone School District. The smallest portion is paid to Amity Township.

2018/19 Real Estate Tax

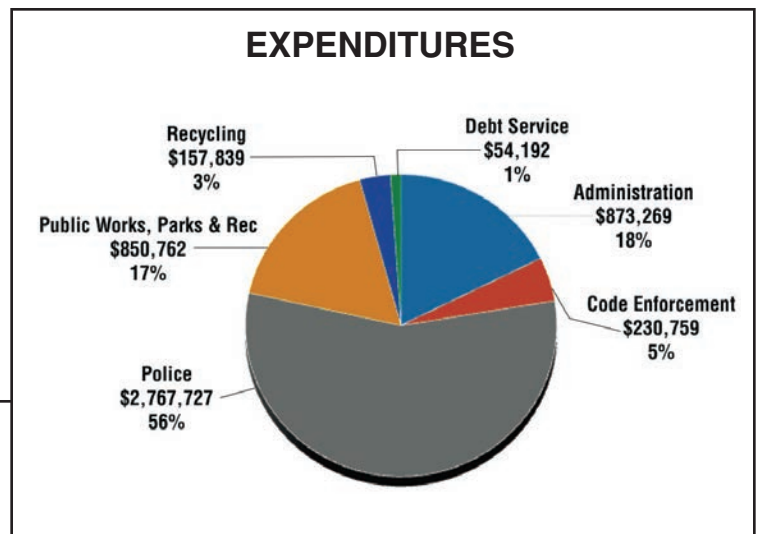
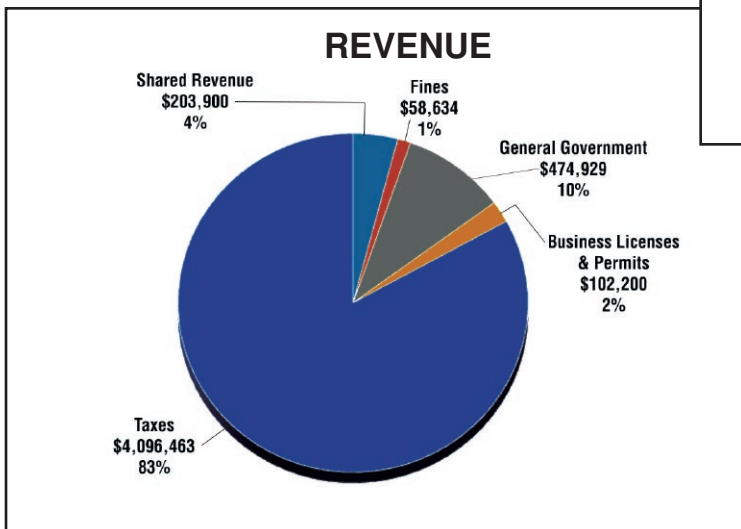


Dean Fronheiser is the Tax Collector for Amity Township. Dean has an office at the municipal building and has established the following sitting hours:

- MARCH** Thursdays from 10AM until Noon and from 5PM until 7PM
No sitting hours on March 21st.
- APRIL** Wednesdays from 10AM until Noon and from 5PM until 7PM
Thursdays from 5PM until 7PM
Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th from 5PM until 7PM
- JUNE** Friday, June 28th and Saturday, June 29th from 5PM until 7PM

Checks for taxes should be made payable to Dean Fronheiser. Dean can be reached at 610-689-9227.

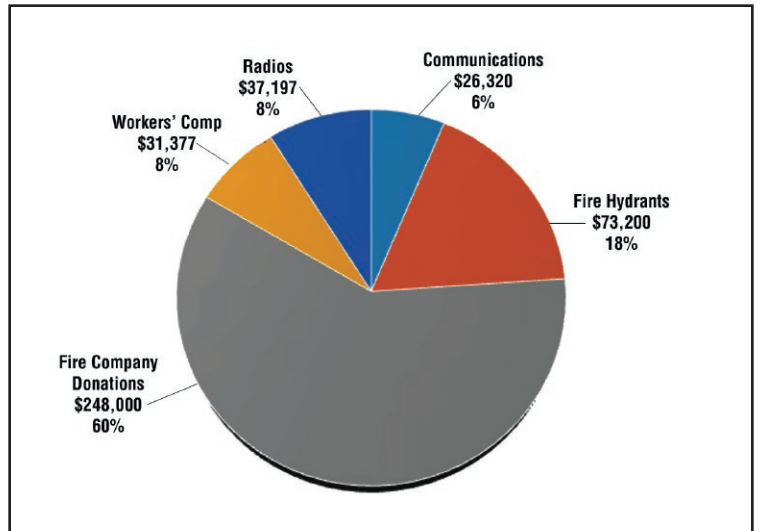
Understanding how your tax dollars are spent is also very important. The graphs below show the source of the Township's expected revenues and expenditures for 2019. Taxes provide the Township's largest revenue stream.



Did you know that not all municipalities have their own police department? Some local municipalities rely on State Police. When Amity Township residents need police and call 9-1-1, one of our very own highly-trained, professional police are in the area and ready to respond. The Board of Supervisors know the value in providing quality local police services to our residents. As you can see in the graph above, Police services account for more than half of the overall expenditures of the Township.

WHERE DOES YOUR FIRE TAX GO?

Amity Fire Company and Monarch Fire Company provide volunteer fire service within Amity Township. The majority of your fire tax dollars are donated to these two companies. The second largest portion of your tax dollars goes toward the cost of fire hydrants, which is paid to PA American Water. The remainder of your fire tax dollars are spent paying for 9-1-1 communications fees, Workmen's Compensation and fire radios.



Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Amity Township Lions Club

March 30th – A Night at the Races

Oley Valley Fairgrounds

Admission: \$5.00

Horses: \$10 (Available from any Lions Club member)

Doors open at 6:15PM. Post time is at 7:00PM.

Food and beverages provided, or you may bring your own!

May 11th – Applebee's Pancake Breakfast

Cost: \$8.00

Kids under 10 FREE

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, orange juice and beverages.



April 6th – Spring Craft Show

Daniel Boone Middle School

April 13th – Daniel Boone Optimists presents the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Amity Community Park • 1PM



Check the Daniel Boone Optimist Club's website www.danielbooneoptimist.com for more information on these events.



April 7th – Amity Township Lioness Basket B-I-N-G-O Fundraiser

Amity Fire Company

Cost: \$20.00/person

Doors open at NOON, BINGO begins at 1:00PM

Door Prizes and Raffle Items – Refreshments available for purchase

For tickets or information contact

Lioness Linda McCue at 610-385-6421

April 30th – May 4th

Amity Fire Company's Annual Fireman's Carnival

Ride Specials Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Enjoy the rides, food and games while supporting Amity Fire Co.



MESSAGE FROM THE SEWER BILLING DEPARTMENT

The Sewer Billing Department receives many calls from residents with questions regarding payment due dates, water shutoffs, property transfers and starting and stopping services when selling their home.

Quarterly sewer charges are billed on the 1st day of the quarter and are due on the last day of the first month of that quarter, e.g. January 1st bills are due January 31st. In 2019, the sewer rental rate increased by \$2.00 to \$112.00/quarter. If you use your bank's online bill pay, please note the change. If you use Xpress Bill Pay and have set a limit within Autopay, please make sure you make the change. If your payment is not received by the due date, then your payment is late. Unlike the tax bills, we do not use the postmark from the post office.

There are two ways to make a payment: Xpress Bill Pay (one-time or autopay) or by check. Checks can be mailed, dropped off during normal business hours at the Township building or placed in the drop box on the side of the building. Using the correct account number on your check is required to have your payment posted promptly to your account. All account numbers are now 7-digits and start with an 8xxxx.xx. If you use your bank's online bill payor, please update your account number with your bank.

Using Xpress Bill Pay's autopay feature is a great way to set it and forget it. An email notification is sent once your bill has been uploaded and when your payment has been made. The best time to setup autopay is during the month that your bill is due. If you choose to set up automatic payments for your sewer rental charges and you are not in the month that the bill is due (January, April, July or October), you need to be very aware during the setup process when Xpress Bill Pay tells you that the next payment is scheduled. For example, on November 10th you set up automatic payments for the 5th day every 3 months. The next payment will be March 5th which would make your payment late. There are two ways to avoid this from happening. Make your current payment, then setup autopay. If you want to choose a particular day of the month to make the payment, when asked for the frequency, use "monthly". In the months that your balance is \$0, no payment will be made. The second way is to choose a day 0-5 days before the due date. Since sewer bills are only due once every quarter, your account will only be charged on that date.

Many residents ask if they can break their quarterly charge into monthly payments. YES, you can! Using Xpress Bill Pay is an ideal way to do that. Set up autopay to have the monthly amount withdrawn from your bank account or charged to your credit card

on the day of your choosing. Keep in mind that the full amount of the bill needs to be paid by the due date or late fees will apply.

If you are selling your home, there is no need to contact the Sewer Billing department. Since sewer rental charges are billed on a quarterly flat rate basis and not on actual usage, there is no stopping and starting service like you would with your water or electric services. At time of settlement, there will be a proration for the quarterly sewer charges that you are responsible for. All changes to your sewer account are made from the information we receive from the Recorder of Deeds. The Township receives that early in the month for the prior month. If you make settlement on your home during the months of March, June, September and December, you will receive the next quarter's sewer bill. You can ignore that bill. After receiving the report from the Recorder of Deeds, the account will be terminated and activated for the new homeowner.

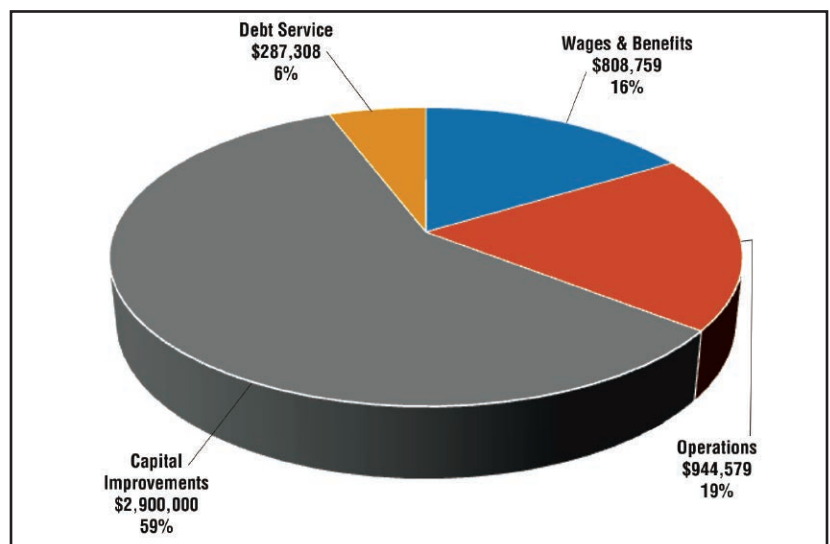
Are you at risk of having your water shut off? The billing department guideline for shutting off water is when your account is one year past due. You will be notified with a shutoff letter with a date when payment or a payment arrangement is required to stay the water shutoff. Once the work order is sent to PA American to have your water shutoff or restored, it is on their schedule. So, if your water is turned off and you pay your balance, your water will not be immediately restored. PA American is sent the request (which can take up to 3 business days for them to process) to restore water service. The Township does not control the technicians who restore your water services so please don't ignore the bright colored water shut off notices. Call the Sewer Billing Department to make payment arrangements.

Why do sewer rates increase? Capital improvements prove to be the largest expenditure for the Sewer budget. Over the past year, modifications were made to Pump Stations 2 and 4 to provide better capacity and improve efficiencies. The long-awaited Leaf Creek Interceptor line will help decrease the flow along 662 and allowed Pump Station 6 to be decommissioned saving the Township and rate payers money. The Leaf Creek Interceptor line and the modifications done at the pump stations also provide additional connections for future development. Superintendent Dave Wheeler and his staff work hard every day to ensure the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the collection system are functioning properly. The chart below illustrates how your sewer dollars are spent.

THIS IS HOW YOUR SEWER DOLLARS ARE SPENT

If you have any questions about sewer billing, please call Tracy in the Sewer Billing Department at 610-689-6000, ext. 225.

Sewer emergencies should be reported by calling 610-655-4911.



MONACACY HILL

2018 was the busiest year ever for events and projects at Monacacy Hill. We celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a picnic at the park and completed a 2-year habitat improvement project in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture.

The project was funded by the Schuylkill Highlands organization and involved the removal of non-native trees. This grant focused on eliminating Ailanthus trees, which are the preferred food on the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. Over 1,000 trees were treated with herbicide during the last 2 years. The PA Department of Agriculture will continue to monitor the 30 "trap trees" that remain throughout the park. The most exciting part of this project was having the opportunity to replant some native trees in the areas where the invasive trees were removed. This tree planting was done in the October with the help of Girl Scouts from Daniel Boone Troop 11165 and also Cub Scouts from Tiger Den, Scout Pack 597. A total of 85 trees were planted throughout the park. *Thanks to all the Scouts for a job well done!*

Plans for 2019 will include more planting of trees and seeds to help restore the forest and add more native plants to the pollinator field along Limekiln Road. We may also need to make some trail improvements due to the high volume of rain we received in 2018. Remember we are always looking for eager volunteers to help us maintain this beautiful recreation area. You can get in touch with us through our website. Watch our Facebook page and website www.monacacyhill.org for more details on the projects and hikes coming up this year.

Please stop in for our annual Spring Open House - Sunday, May 5th from 10AM to 5PM.



Pictured left to right: Ann Marie Arbo, Dave Minninger, Risa Marmontello, Jennifer Huha, Mae Ann Rehrer and Linda Okuniewski.



Daniel Boone Girl Scout Troop 11165 planted trees on Monacacy Hill. Picture courtesy of Maygon Major

Buried Treasures!

The shadow box contains the many treasures Justin Heimes discovered on Monacacy Hill.

Stop by the municipal building to get a better view of our newly found treasures.

Many thanks to Justin for uncovering a few more pieces of Amity Township history!



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The community is invited to bring their Automotive waste, oil, antifreeze, battery, and tires (limit 4) on Earth Day between 8am and 5pm for proper disposal. **NO GASOLINE. Relay for Life will receive \$20 for each battery you bring in to be recycled.**

Look forward to Recycling with You

Finding a Licensed Contractor for your Home Improvement Project

Hiring and paying the right insured contractor to come into your home, make improvements, as agreed upon, in a timely manner, can be a very trying experience. You may or may not be aware, but the State officials have enacted a law to assist homeowners through this process.

In 2008, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act. The law requires that all contractors who perform at least \$5,000 worth of home improvements per year register with the Attorney General's Office. As of July 1, 2009, consumers in Pennsylvania are able to verify registration with the Attorney General's office by visiting the Registered Contractors page at <https://hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov/> or by calling their toll-free hotline, 1-888-520-6680.

Although these regulations can only be enforced by the Attorney General, the Amity Township Code Department asks for each contractor's HIC# on each permit application for home improvements. We recommend you choose a contractor that is licensed by the Attorney General. The regulations require contractors to include certain items in each contract such as:

- agreement between the contractor and the consumer
- description of work
- dates of starting and completion
- down payments, sales price and payment dates
- insurance coverages

Their website is also a great place to find contractor's in your area that perform the type of improvements you are proposing. **Always remember, though, that registration under HICPA is not an endorsement, recommendation or approval by the Office of Attorney General or Amity Township of the contractor's competency or skill.**



Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless toxic flammable gas formed by incomplete combustion of carbon. CO can be produced when fuel-fired (e.g. gas, oil, wood, pellets) appliances don't function properly or when any vehicle is running continuously. CO alarms play an important role in protecting the public against carbon monoxide poisoning. Studies have shown that the severity of CO poisoning is based upon the concentration of CO in a victim's bloodstream. Symptoms may progress from a slight headache to nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, vomiting, collapse and ultimately death as carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) levels increase in the bloodstream and displace oxygen.



In 2010, the Int'l Residential Code (IRC) required the installation of CO alarms in new home construction or whenever renovations are undertaken, when a fuel-fired appliance or attached garage is present in the home. They had never been required prior to that, so there's a good chance there aren't any if your home was built before 2010. We recommend you consider installing CO alarms as specified in the IRC, if your home has these conditions and has no CO alarms in place.

The alarms should be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. Where a fuel-burning appliance is located within a bedroom, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed within the bedroom. Make sure the CO alarms are listed in accordance with UL 2034. Combination carbon monoxide and smoke alarms are permitted and shall be listed in accordance with UL 2034 and UL 217. In existing homes, CO alarms may be battery supplied only and are not required to be interconnected with other alarms. If none are present, please consider adding this safety equipment to your home.

Keeping Sidewalks Safe

Now that we are well into winter, please be reminded that it is the responsibility of each homeowner with a public sidewalk abutting their property to keep it safe for pedestrian travel. Snow and ice on sidewalks can cause pedestrians, especially school children, to walk out into the street to a hazardous location. Where sidewalks exist, property owners shall have at least a two-foot wide path cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. When more than twelve (12) inches of snow has fallen, owners shall have at least a two-foot wide path cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. Unfortunately, in some snow events, the snow from plow trucks makes its way back onto a shoveled sidewalk. Clearing that snow again within 24 hours of the plow truck plowing by remains your responsibility. Please maintain your sidewalks this winter, including ramps at intersections. Not maintaining them can lead to violations. Thank you for your cooperation.



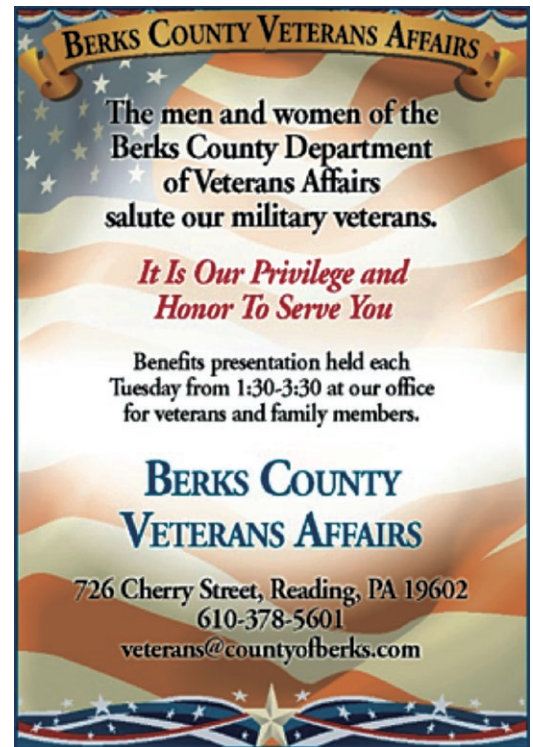
Steve Loomis
Director of Codes & Life Safety

Information for Veterans

Are you a Veteran who has been honorably discharged? If so, you should have your original military discharge papers (DD 214). When you or your family need help, the DD 214 form unlocks all the benefits you are entitled to as someone who has served your Country.

The Berks County Recorder of Deeds offers free recording of your DD 214 and will issue all Berks County resident Veterans a free official Veterans I.D. card. Stop by the Berks County Recorder of Deeds office at the County Services Center in Reading during regular office hours. This is presently the only location where you can obtain your I.D. card.

Have you felt lost when talking to someone in Veteran's Affairs? Do you need someone to help get results and be your advocate? The Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs is an invaluable resource. The Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs is not a federal or state agency and does not have direct access to all information that is managed by the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, however they can assist you with your search for information with these departments at anytime, and can advocate on behalf of your claim, but only when they enter into a limited power of attorney with you. You were there for your Country, now let them be there for you! Call 610-378-5601 and press "0" at any time to speak with an available Veteran's Services Officer. They can also be reached online at veterans@countyofberks.com



Address

Berks County Veterans Affairs
726 Cherry Street
Reading PA 19602

Hours

Monday thru Friday:
0800 to 1200 (8:00AM to 12:00PM) and
1300 to 1600 (1:00PM to 4:00PM)
Closed 1200 to 1300 (12:00PM - 1:00PM)

Terry Jones Completes His Master Planning Code & Certification Program



Township Supervisor and Planning Commission member Terry Jones completed his Master Planner Series and Certificate Program on October 16th. The program addressed all the issues related to the Municipal Planning Code and Comprehensive Planning.

If you see Terry Jones, be sure to congratulate him!

Fellow Supervisor and Planning Commission Chairman Paul "Skip" Weller previously completed the same program.

Your Township Supervisors and Planning Commission members attend various courses offered at Albright's Centers for Excellence in Local Government. Educated members means you have excellent representation!

Congratulations Terry!

Public Works in the News

As everyone begins thinking about warmer temperatures and getting outside, the road crew will be getting ready for a busy spring! Tree trimming and gutter grading on country roads was done in winter and may continue into spring. Storm sewer projects on Morlatton Road, Gilde Lane and Amity Park Road are planned for spring, weather permitting.

Restrooms at all parks will be opened on April 8th. The crew will be replacing two pieces of playground equipment at Locust Grove Park and installing some small pieces of equipment at Amity Community Park. The crew will take on two larger projects; removing and replacing the playground equipment at Hill Road Park (Letort) and at Lake Drive Park.

Although we haven't had many snow events, street sweeping has been scheduled for the first week in April. Road staff will be busy picking up brush from April 15th to April 26th. Roadside trimming will begin in late-May.

Paving projects are planned for Maplewood from Dogwood to Morlatton, Lilac from Russell to Ivy, Ivy Lane from Russell to the end of the court and Gilde Lane.

Please report any pot holes to roadmaster@amitytownshippa.com or by calling 610-689-6000, extension 224.



Spring will be here in a few weeks. Now that grass mowing season is upon us, we would like to remind everyone to angle their lawn mowers in a way to prevent throwing grass clippings onto the street. Throwing grass clippings onto the streets of Amity Township creates problems such as clogging the storm water drainage systems, blocking stormwater flow, creating algae and slippery conditions. Sharp

or dangerous debris can be thrown onto the streets towards cars, motorcycles and pedestrians. Freshly cut grass clippings can make the roadway especially slippery to those on two wheels! If a motorcyclist or bicyclist lose traction they could crash causing damage and injury to themselves and others. Engineers have calculated that the coefficient of friction of fresh grass clippings is almost as slick as grease. You may not be in violation of any of our ordinances but may still be liable for injuries and damages caused by your grass clippings or yard waste being thrown onto the street. While replacing a motorcycle can be costly, replacing a life is impossible.

For the safety of the environment, it's important to know that when grass clippings reach our waterways, there may be some harmful effects to the water. The waste adds excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, leading to uncontrolled growth of algae and invasive aquatic weeds. With your help, we can keep our water sources clean for generations to come.

Did you know that grass clippings provide a good source of nutrients for your lawn? Allowing grass clippings to remain on your lawn can make your lawn even healthier! If you're not planning on a picnic or being in your back yard, use the mulching blades on the mower. Mow it and forget it. This saves homeowners money on fertilizer and limits the potential for liability to others.

We ask that after each mowing, should any grass make it onto a public street that you safely remove the clippings/debris from the streets. Thank you for doing your part to keep our stormwater flowing and our water sources clean of pollutants.



WHAT EXACTLY IS A RAIN BARREL?

A **rain barrel** is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, streams, and eventually the Delaware River watershed.

A **rain barrel** is constructed using a reused 55 gallon food grade barrel, a bottom drain, a spigot, an overflow a screen to keep debris and insects out, and a downspout diverter to carry the water into the rain barrel.

A **rain barrel** is a relatively simple and inexpensive way to capture and store rain water for use at later times. It conveniently sits under residential gutter downspouts from your home, garage, and/or shed.

BENEFITS OF USING A RAIN BARREL

Lawn and garden watering can take up a large percentage or total percentage of total household water use during the summer months. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most, during periods of drought! A rain barrel provides an ample supply of FREE water for flowers, gardens, lawns and even car washing!

A rain barrel can conserve water and save YOU money during peak summer months. Conserving water helps protect the environment, saves energy (decreased demand for treated tap water and well water) and decreases the impact of runoff to streams and the Delaware River. Therefore by installing a rain barrel YOU can help protect the water quality, aquatic species, drinking water quality and recreation in the Delaware River watershed.

RAIN BARRELS

A Storymaker Solution to Non-Point Source Pollution



A rain barrel is a rainwater collection system that stores rooftop runoff that can be used for irrigating flowers, gardens, and lawns, while conserving water and saving YOU money!

Stormwater

Typically, rain water runoff is collected in storm sewer systems and released directly into streams. This direct runoff can contribute to flooding in developed areas that can contain a lot of impervious surfaces including roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots.

This runoff carries with it pollutants that contribute to poor water quality that can affect the health of local waterways and even your drinking water. These issues are of particular importance in highly developed areas as more impervious surfaces cause more runoff, during a rain or snow event.

When you collect rain water that would otherwise enter the storm sewer system, you are helping to minimize the amount of storm water that will directly run off into streams!



A rain barrel is a good start to get homeowners thinking about water conservation. Rain barrels conserve water runoff, control runoff and can give you a good idea about the large amounts of stormwater that is shed from impervious surfaces.

Because plants thrive on natural rain water (no chlorine, ammonia, fluoride, or other chemicals), the rainwater collected and stored in rain barrels is ideal for watering lawns and gardens.

A formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 sq. ft. roof yields 623 gallons of water. Calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and divide by 1,000.



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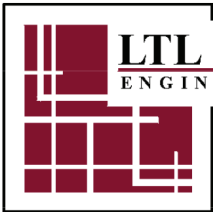
Spring 2019
Volume XX Issue I

hometownpress

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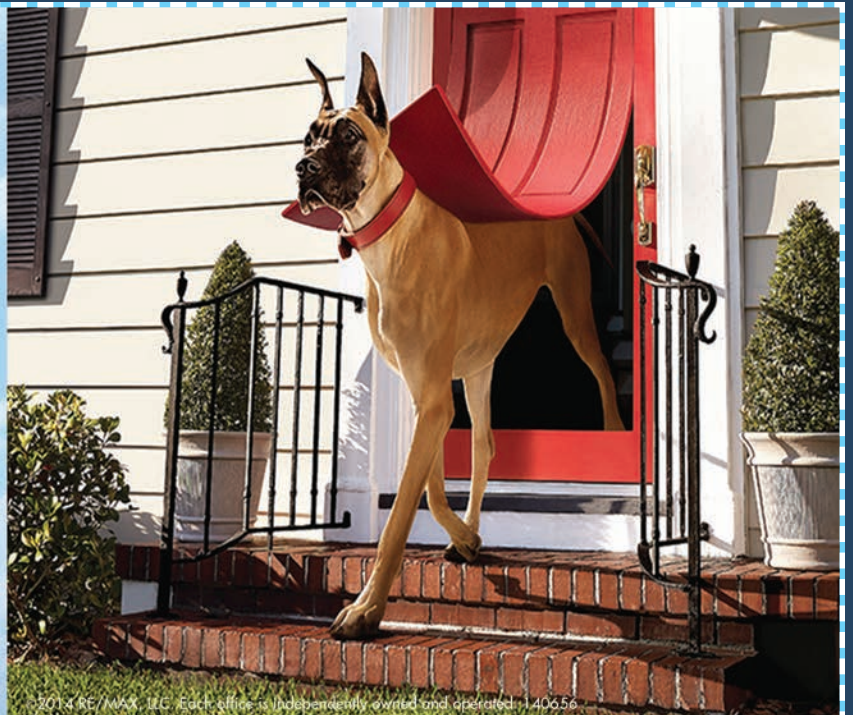
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