

Welcome to

FALL 2020
Volume XX, Issue III



AMITY TOWNSHIP

Berks County, Pennsylvania



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Township Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

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LEAF AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The Township now has two leaf vacuums, which will hopefully help move collection along faster! The road crew will begin leaf collection by zones, beginning on November 23rd. For your convenience, roads are listed below by the collection zones. Zone 1 may take upwards of two weeks, weather permitting. If your road is not listed in any of these zones, collection will commence following collection of Zone 3. The road crew will go through the Township by zone one more time, weather permitting.

Streets are listed in the order of how collection is handled.

ZONE 1 - Griffith Drive to Heather Court, going North to Poplar Drive, East to Griffith Drive, then to Juniper Drive, Hickory Lane, Elliott Drive, Elliott Court and Holly Drive

Richards Avenue, Merritt Avenue, Maplewood Court, Maplewood Drive, Nicholson Avenue, Fernwood Avenue, Briarwood Drive, Lake Drive, Rosewood Drive, Spruce Court, Rosewood Court, N. and S. Pinewood Drive, Dogwood Drive and Terry Court

Laurelwood Drive, Glenwood Drive, Willowwood Drive, Magnolia Drive, Willowwood Court, Birchwood Court, Aspen Court, Ash Court, Redwood Drive, Lilac Lane, Lilac Court, Ivy Court, Ivy Lane, Russell Avenue from Old Airport Road to Ivy Lane, Russell Avenue to Old Swede Road, Elmwood Lane, Mulberry Place, north end of Maplewood Drive, Ridge Drive, Firethorn Drive, Mimosa Circle, Linden Place, Balsam Drive, Maple Lane, Bramblewood Court, Bramblewood Drive, Maplewood Drive and Old Airport Road

ZONE 2 - W. Welsh Drive, Penns Lane, Cedar Run, Battenkill Drive, Queen Ann Circle, Victoria Drive, Loyalsock Drive, North Monocacy Creek Road, Letort Lane, Kettle Lane, Swatara Circle, Grays Run Lane, Antietam Drive, Hill Drive, Hill Road, Slate Run Road, Chefield Court, Kingston Drive, Cameron Drive, Bristol Court, Berkshire Drive, West Morlatton Road, Oxford Circle, Yorkshire Drive, Shagbark Lane, Woodbridge Lane, Ashford Drive, Clarion Drive and Woodbridge Court

ZONE 3 - Overlook Pointe, Schoolhouse Court, Pleasant Run Court, Rosecliff Drive, Pepper Lane, Rising Sun Drive, Boone Drive and Thornbury Circle

Meadowcrest Lane, Meadowcrest Court, Wyndmead Lane, Rosewyn Lane, Verdure Lane, Aviemore Lane, Fenwick Lane and Pine Forge Road

Green Meadow Drive, Meadowside Drive, Summer Meadow Drive, Peach Blossom Drive, Highmeadow Drive, Shadybrooke Drive, Pine Lane, Stephens Way and Woodbrooke Drive

continued on page 3

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continued from cover

Leaves should be raked into a pile at the curb, making sure leaves are not piled next to mailboxes or trees. Please do not bag leaves! The Township will not pick-up bagged leaves. Keep storm sewer drains clear of leaves. Cars should not be parked over piles of leaves.

Yard Waste Collection – The Road Crew will collect yard waste from November 16th through November 20th. Items should be bundled, tied, or placed in brown paper bags, no larger than 2'x2' and weighing no more than 20 pounds. No plastic bags, please!

Don't want to wait for yard waste or leaf collection? The Township now provides THREE forty-yard containers behind the municipal building for leaves and yard waste. Please use brown paper bags. No plastic, please! Tree limbs with a diameter of 2" or greater should be placed on the ground. All other limbs should be placed inside the dumpsters.

PLEASE NOTE: Dumpsters list what materials are accepted. We DO NOT accept tires, electronics or household hazardous waste. Please do not leave 55-gallon plastic drums, lawn mowers, tires, etc. Cameras are in use at the Township building and parking lots and will be used to identify those who are dumping these items. It costs ALL Amity Township taxpayers to dispose of these unwanted, non-recyclable items.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Don't let your Christmas tree end up in the dump! We're asking residents to let your trash haulers know they are not to collect Christmas trees. If you put your tree outside at the same time as your regular trash is collected, please place it on the opposite side so they know not to take it.

The road crew will be conducting a "pick and chip" collection of Christmas trees beginning on January 2nd. They will follow the same collection route as the leaf collection schedule. Residents who want the tree gone before collection can take their tree to the Township building, Trees should be placed where the sign designates, NOT in the dumpster.

Trees will be collected and chipped. Wood chips will be stored at Lake Drive Park and will be available to residents for FREE on a first-come, first-serve basis. Beware, wood chips are a product of our resident's recycled wood waste and could contain poison, weeds, etc. Residents may shovel and load wood chips during park hours.



ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING EVENT – CANCELLED

Although the Daniel Boone Optimist's Annual Community Tree Lighting Event has been cancelled, the tree will be lit on November 27th and remain lit through the New Year as a reminder to our residents to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Restrooms at all Township parks will be closed for the season on November 2nd with the exception of the Butch Boyer Memorial Pavilion at Amity Community Park.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY – Use this directory to get answers to your questions.

- ✓ Building and Zoning Permit Questions – 610-689-6000, Ext. 232
- ✓ On-Lot Tank Inspections or Permitting (SMO) – 610-689-6000, Ext. 232
- ✓ Property Maintenance Issues – 610-689-6000, Ext. 232
- ✓ Pavilion and Field Rentals – 610-689-6000, Ext. 222
- ✓ Police – Emergencies call 9-1-1
- ✓ Police – Non-Emergencies or to speak to an Officer on duty – 610-689-6002, Ext. 1 or 610-655-4911
- ✓ Public Sewer Billing Inquires – 610-689-6000, Ext. 225
- ✓ Recycling – 610-689-6000, Ext. 221
- ✓ (Public) Sewer Emergencies (7:00am-3:30pm, M-F) – 610-385-3400, Ext. 1
- ✓ (Public) Sewer Emergencies (after hours, holidays and weekends) – 610-689-6002, Ext. 1
- ✓ Spotted Lanternfly – 610-689-6000, Ext. 222
- ✓ Street Lights, Leaf Collection, Plowing Concerns – 610-689-6000, Ext. 224

Please do not leave a message in multiple mailboxes. If you receive voicemail when calling our office, please leave a detailed message and your call will be returned within one business day.

CODE DEPARTMENT

On-Lot Tanks – Required to Pump and Inspect Every 3 Years

Although some septic haulers recommend pumping your system every two (2) years, Amity Township Ordinance regulations, which were mandated to match PA DEP regulations, require all on-lot septic tanks to be pumped and inspected every three (3) years. In the spring of the year in which you are required to pump, a reminder is mailed to each homeowner by the Township explaining the program. Additionally, an expiration date is listed on the Certificate of Compliance you received during your last cycle. It lists the year you are to have it pumped and inspected. Should you choose to have it pumped on a non-required year, please keep the hauler's inspection report card and pump slip and turn it in when you receive the spring reminder letter. Amity Township accepts pumping report cards within one year from the date you turn it in. You will then be required to meet the Ordinance three (3) years from the time you had it pumped. Feel free to call 610-689-6000, ext. 232 for any additional information.

RV Parking on Properties

Parking RVs and other trailers is permitted on your lot any time of the year with a couple specific exceptions. They may not be parked in front of the front yard building setback line. These setback lines are as follows: Woods Edge, High Meadows Estates, Sunset Knoll and some of Greenbriar Estates have a front yard setback line of forty (40') feet. Westridge, Amity Gardens, Lenape Farms, Rosecliff Pointe, Sunrise Hills, Pond View, Cider Mill Run, Pleasant Meadows, Glenwood Estates, Far Hill Farms and some of Greenbriar Estates have a front yard setback line of thirty (30') feet. Front property lines are generally two (2') feet in from your side of the sidewalk. Yellowhouse and Indian Run Subdivisions have a front yard setback line of fifty (50') feet. These front property lines are twenty-five (25') feet from the centerline of the street. Although you might think a driveway is ok, most driveways are within this nonpermitted area. Please park your RVs in a permitted location. Illegally parked vehicles can lead to enforcement action. Call 610-689-6000, ext. 232 if you need further information.

Thanks for your cooperation, Code Enforcement Department



BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

Berks County Solid Waste Authority cancelled all Paper Recycling events for 2020.

Electronic and Tire Recycling Centers are still open, but ALL VISITORS must wear a mask and remain in their vehicle while on site to keep everyone safe and follow COVID-19 processes.

Electronic Recycling Center 1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
from 8:00AM to NOON

FREE to all Berks County Residents

The following electronics will be accepted at NO CHARGE or residents:

- Computers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, modems, printers and copiers
- Microwaves, stereos, VCRs, DVD players, telephones, answering machines
- Televisions (maximum of two per resident/vehicle per day)
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Rechargeable and lead acid batteries (ONLY) NO alkaline batteries accepted
- Air conditioners and dehumidifiers

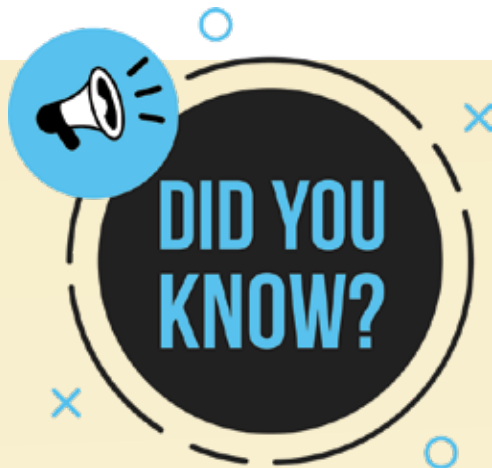
Commercial and Institutional items will be accepted by appointment only and fees will be charged according to the Berks County Fee Schedule:

Tire Recycling Center 1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
from 8:00AM to NOON

**Fees apply per Berks County Fee Schedule

Maximum of (4) tires will be accepted. Standard passenger and light truck tires shall have diameter between 20" and 32" and width between 6" and 12" and shall be free of dirt, water and foreign objects. Deformed tires will not be accepted.



- Alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the regular trash.
- Latex paint should be dried and hardened before disposing in regular trash. If you want to shorten the dry time, pour kitty litter or saw dust in the can to absorb the paint.

Collection dates are intended to provide **Berks County** residents with a responsible way to dispose of old, unusable and unwanted hazardous products. Putting these items in the trash or down the drain contributes to the pollution of our air and drinking waters.

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



BE PREPARED FOR A FIRE:

- Have an escape plan.
- Keep furniture and toys away from doors and windows.
- Holiday decorations - Don't let them block your escape route.
- Place trees and holiday decorations away from doors and windows that would be used to escape.

AMITY TOWNSHIP 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 be receiving a notice from Eagle Disposal for their 2021 collection dates. This information will also be made available 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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.



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Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.



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Amity Township

GET READY FOR THE SNOW

Don't be caught unprepared when the snow starts falling. Following a few simple rules will make Old Man Winter a little more bearable:

Under 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 cessation of the snowfall.** You must comply immediately to avoid penalties. Penalties can include fines not to exceed \$1,000.00 per day until resolved.

Plow or shovel your snow to the side of your driveway, away from the flow of traffic. Clearing snow for a distance before your driveway allows the plow to "unload" before reaching your driveway.

Additionally, by piling snow away from the direction of oncoming snow plows, the bulk of the snow will not be pushed back onto your driveway making less work for you later! If the snow plow deposits snow in your driveway, please know this is not done intentionally.

Do not shovel snow into the street! Shoveling snow into the street at any time can cause safety issues, not to mention it's against the law, per Chapter 7, Section 104.

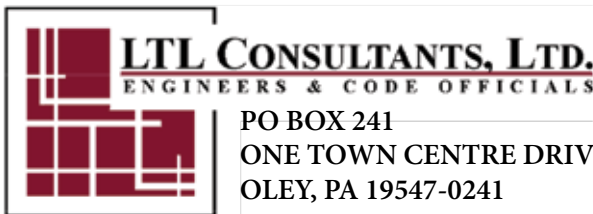
Please place recycling bins back from the curb as far as possible during snow events to prevent Township crews from knocking them over while plowing.

Keep an eye on the weather! Per Chapter 19, Section 403, whenever there is accumulation of 1" or more of snow and/or ice, you must remove your vehicle from the street. Police will issue violations of \$40.00 per day for vehicles left on the street with 1" or greater accumulation. You may want to have a back-up plan. If you're not home and your vehicle is on the street, having someone able to move it for you during a winter storm is a quick savings of \$40.00!

Lastly, please help firefighters by making sure hydrants are accessible! If you have a fire hydrant near your house, please remove ice and snow, clear a 3-foot by 3-foot perimeter around the hydrant and clear a path from the hydrant to the street.

Winter Driving Tips from AAA

- Stay Home – Go out only if necessary. It's better to avoid unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive Slowly – Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow and/or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly – Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't drive in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember, it takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Increase your following distance – to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance necessary if you need to stop.
- Know your brakes – Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor board and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it – There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving from a full stop. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills – Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- Don't stop when going up a hill – There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on the flat roadway before you take on the hill.

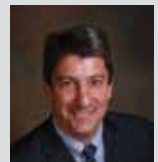


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FLAG DISPOSAL

Do you have an old tattered or torn flag? Flags should be “retired” instead of being thrown in the trash.

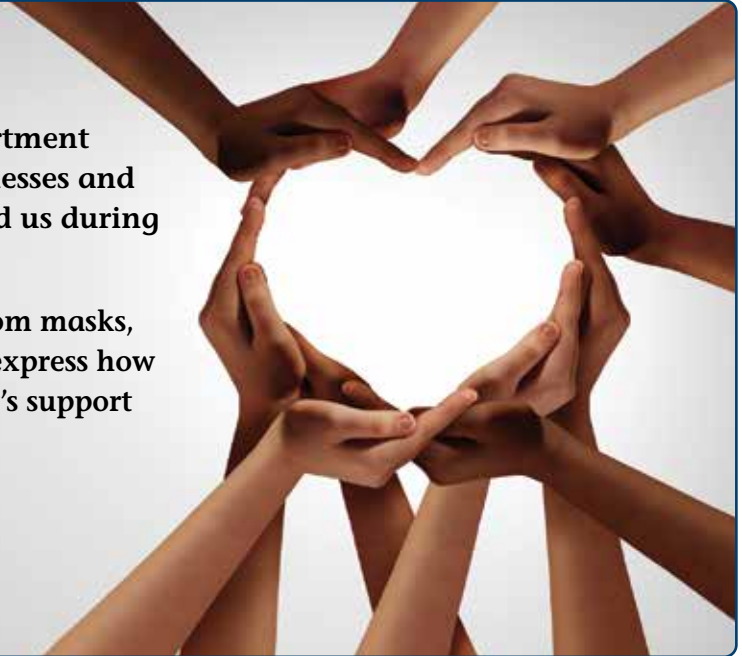
Boy Scout Troop #597 provides a flag drop-off box at the Amity Township building. Flags are picked up and properly retired.



The Amity Township Police Department would like to thank the many businesses and community members whom have supported us during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We have received numerous items ranging from masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and food. We can not express how much we sincerely appreciate the community’s support during this unprecedented event.

Chief J. Smith



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TAX COLLECTOR

Dean Fronheiser is the Tax Collector for Amity Township. Dean does not have set office hours during winter months, but can be seen by appointment or contacted by calling 610-689-9227.

PULL THOSE WEEDS

Grass and weeds seem to grow everywhere! Who maintains the area between the curb and street when this happens? This is a great question. The answer to this question is simply *the homeowner*. Homeowners are responsible for this area as well as the sidewalk and curb.

If you were unaware of whose responsibility it was in the past, hopefully this clears up the confusion. If you have been maintaining this area, *thank you* for helping keep our community looking neat and tidy!



HALLOWEEN AND HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTESTS



The Halloween house decorating contest was a HUGE success! Thank you to our sponsors and all who participated.

Amity Township will host a Holiday decorating contest in December. Watch the Township website and Facebook for more information!



BOONE AREA LIBRARY

Finding yourself and kids with extra time on your hands? Why not stop by the library! The library has a Children's Activity Pack that is available every Monday at the library, while supplies last. Activity packs typically include one or two crafts for children ages 4 to 8. Each month the library also designs activity packs for the t(w)een patrons. Activity packs are all FREE and can be picked up during library or curbside hours, no reservation necessary. More information can be found on the monthly program calendars located at the library.

Encourage kids to be lifelong readers by looking into a book club. Book clubs are a great way to make new friends through reading. Members will read a common book and discuss the book within the club. You may just be surprised to see how others interpret the book you've just read! Youth Book Club meets every Thursday on Zoom at 4:30. Anyone interested in joining can contact the Youth Coordinator, Sarah Terry, at sbichild@berks.lib.pa.us for more information. Eagle's Eye and Book Lovers Unite are adult book clubs that currently meet outside the library. For more information on adult book clubs, email boone@berks.lib.pa.us.

Everyone will be looking forward to the return of spring, warmer weather and the Read at the Park program! In the spring, the library will again host Read in the Park Wednesdays from 9:00AM-10:00AM at Mainbird Park in Birdsboro and on Fridays from 10:00AM-11:00AM at Amity Community Park in Douglassville.

Library Hours:

Mondays: Curbside Pickup, 9:00AM-1:00PM

Tuesdays: OPEN, 2:00PM-7:00PM

Wednesdays: Curbside Pickup, 4:00PM-7:00PM

Thursdays: Curbside Pickup, 4:00PM-7:00PM

Fridays: OPEN, 9:00AM-2:00PM

Saturdays: OPEN, 9:00AM-2:00PM

UPDATE: SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) having grown into adults after storing up the summer warmth and energy, are beginning to swarm. In areas of heavy populations, thousands of the invasive insect will gather in masses on trees, houses and other tall structures, to launch themselves into the wind and glide, looking for food and a safe place to lay their eggs. This intense flurry of activity comes as the cooling weather informs the lanternfly that the time has come to prepare for the next generation. While lanternflies do not pose a danger to humans, this display disrupts outdoor activity and will cause many to retreat indoors.

These swarming events also give researchers a good idea of where large populations might exist today, and where egg masses will likely be found in the winter months. Reporting these swarms via the Public Reporting Tool will aid researchers and treatment staff alike; both to pinpoint areas for study and to target areas to treat next season.

Should you report seeing the SLF? The Answer is YES! Previously, the Department of Agriculture asked that Townships communicate to their residents who are in the quarantine (like Amity) NOT to report sightings of SLF. However, in a communication received this past September, the Department of Agriculture asked that people everywhere report that they are seeing on the Penn State Extension's website. The website includes a "locate me" button which pinpoints where you are on the map, asks you to identify what stage you are seeing (ie. egg masses, early nymphs, late nymphs, and/or adult bugs (using the easy to identify pictures shown below). The site even allow users to upload their personal pictures of what they're seeing around their own neighborhoods. This information is used to help determine where large populations of SLF exist, and where we can expect to find their egg masses. By asking the public to report the approximate numbers of SLF they see, we can begin to get a true idea of the size of populations over an area. The Department of Agriculture also closely follows up on reports outside the known quarantine areas to find new populations, determine pathways for spread and improve our prediction models for where Spotted Lanternfly might be found next.

Please note that most people who report a Spotted Lanternfly sighting will not be contacted. The data provided is used to help the Pennsylvania Spotted Lanternfly Program partners better understand this invasive pest.

By having Commonwealth residents' support in reporting Spotted Lanternfly, we can work together to slow the spread of this invasive insect!

Egg Mass: September - May



Nymphs: April - October



Adults: July - November



BUSINESSES CAN CONTROL SLF SPREAD

We need everyone to protect their properties, communities, and the Commonwealth from this invasive insect that has the potential to change our landscape and quality of life. Businesses play an important role. Business owners should incorporate pest control into their vegetation management plans and work to minimize the possibility of this insect hitching a ride on vehicles or in products.

All agricultural and non-agricultural businesses located or working within the quarantine, which move products, vehicles or other conveyances within or from the quarantine are required to have a SLF Permit. Visit the SLF Quarantine & Permitting page for permitting program information and industry best management practices.

All SLF permit holders have been issued a paper permit (blue and white trifold). The permit is valid until you receive a renewal notification, which may be more than one year from the time of course completion.

Renewal is easy! If you have a blue and white paper permit, no further action is needed. If you have not received a paper permit, email slfpermit@pa.gov. SLF permits do not expire and there is no need to retake or re-test.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING CONTROL THE SLF SPREAD

Thank you for your continued support in helping control the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly in Amity Township. Remember as the holidays near, be sure you're not carrying the SLF with you by following these simple control measures:

- KILL any bugs you may see. Adult SLF will become slower and easier to catch with colder weather.
- SCRAPE any eggs found on trees and any other stationary items stored outside. Crush eggs until you hear them pop, or place them in baggies with a small amount of hand sanitizer or alcohol.
- LOOK before you leave. Inspect your vehicle before traveling. You may find egg masses on your vehicle and on tires.

The Spotted Lanternflyer is an e-newsletter created by the PA Department of Agriculture to help keep the public informed on the most recent SLF news. Sign up at the PA Department of Agriculture website under "Spotted Lanternflyer Sign Up" and begin receiving updates regarding treatment, permitting, quarantine, life cycle and more!

Rain Barrels



What Are Rain Barrels and Why Should I Use One?

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores the water from roofs and downspouts for future uses such as watering lawns, gardens, and house plants; cleaning off gardening tools; and washing your car.

Rain barrels help to **lower your water bills**, particularly in the summer months by collecting thousands of gallons of free water a year that you don't have to buy!

Rain barrels are also important for our environment because they help reduce water pollution by decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff reaching our streams and rivers. **Think about it.** The average rainfall of one inch within a 24 hour period can produce more than 700 gallons of water that run off a typical house! While it's running from our homes and lawns, this stormwater picks up anything on the ground such as litter, excess fertilizer, pet waste, and motor oil and transports it to storm drains that **DO NOT** treat the water before dumping it directly into our waterways. So, rain barrels play an important role in protecting our water resources by collecting the stormwater runoff from our homes before it reaches our local streams and rivers.

Using rain barrels is a great way to decrease your household's impact on local waterways and to help you become a good steward of our local waterways. This brochure will show you how to make your own rain barrel by following a few simple steps!



Important Tips for Using Your Rain Barrel

- Do not use collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- Keep lid secure so children and pets cannot fall in and make sure that all other openings are secured to help prevent mosquitoes from entering the barrel.
- The atrium gate should prevent most mosquitoes but eggs could still fall through so for added mosquito prevention add a tablespoon of vegetable oil to the water every season or try a mosquito dunk that kills mosquito eggs but is non toxic to plants and animals.
- When using the overflow valve, make sure water drains away from structures and does not flow onto pavement, sidewalks, or neighboring properties.
- Disconnect the barrel from the downspout during winter months to avoid the formation of damaging ice in the barrel.
- Paint or decorate your rain barrel to make it a distinct part of your yard or garden!

For more information contact:

Delaware Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control

Division of Watershed Stewardship
(302) 382-0335 or (302) 739-9922

www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/wa/Pages/EducationalTips.aspx



Thank you to the Appoquinimink River Association for their permission to use their artwork and reprint this brochure.



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What Do I Need to Get Started?

All of the following items can be purchased at your local hardware store for a **total cost of around \$30** depending on the type of trash can and brand of fittings you purchase.

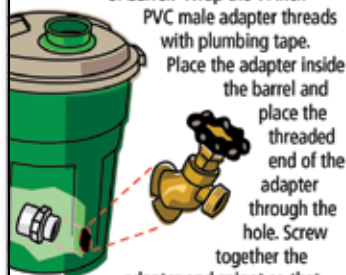
- Outdoor trash can with lid (any size will work – the larger, the more water you will collect)
- Downspout flex-elbow
- 6 inch atrium grate
- Sump pump drain hose kit (kit includes: one ¼ inch, 24 ft. hose, and one 1½ inch insert male adapter)
- 1½ inch PVC female adapter
- ¾ inch spigot with sillcock
- ¾ inch PVC male adapter (do not get CPVC male adapter)
- Electric drill
- 1 inch drill hole saw (type of drill bit)
- 1½ inch drill hole saw (type of drill bit)
- File
- Silicone caulk
- Plumbing tape (also known as Teflon tape)
- Felt tip pen
- Utility scissors or utility knife
- Hacksaw (for cutting downspout if desired)
- 2-4 Concrete blocks

5 Easy Steps to Make a Rain Barrel

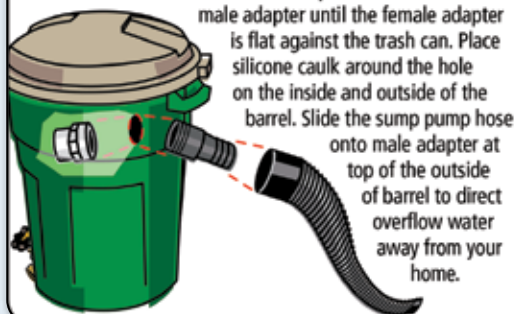
STEP 1: Trace the outline of the top of the atrium grate (largest circle) on the top of the barrel with a felt tip pen. Next, with utility scissors or a utility knife, cut a hole out of the lid by following the traced line. The hole should be snug enough to allow the atrium grate edge to sit on top of the barrel securely without falling in. This allows water to flow into the barrel and keep debris and animals out.



STEP 2: Drill a 1 inch hole about 1½ to 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel. Leave enough distance between the hole and the barrel's bottom to allow the barrel to sit flat on the ground without the spigot hitting the ground. Insert spigot on outside of barrel. Wrap the ¾ inch PVC male adapter threads with plumbing tape. Place the adapter inside the barrel and place the threaded end of the adapter through the hole. Screw together the adapter and spigot so that the spigot is tight against the trash can. Use silicone caulk to seal the hole on the inside and outside of the barrel.



STEP 3: Choose the side of the barrel that you want to place your overflow valve, and drill a 1½ inch hole about one to two inches below the top of the barrel. Use your file to enlarge the hole enough to insert the 1¼ inch male adapter from the outside of the hole. Screw together the 1¼ inch female adapter on the inside to the male adapter until the female adapter is flat against the trash can. Place silicone caulk around the hole on the inside and outside of the barrel. Slide the sump pump hose onto male adapter at top of the outside of barrel to direct overflow water away from your home.



STEP 4: Place 2 concrete blocks under your selected downspout as a raised base to allow room for a watering can or to screw on a hose. Cut your downspout about 4" above the top of the barrel lid. Attach the downspout flex-elbow to the downspout. Direct the flex-elbow into the atrium grate on top of your trash can.



STEP 5: Congratulate yourself on your hard work and for making a difference in reducing stormwater pollution. Make sure to let all the caulk dry thoroughly before using. Enjoy your rain barrel!

These steps serve as a guideline for the construction of your own rain barrel. Changes can be made based on your personal preferences.



MONOCACY HILL

This year has proven to be a difficult one that found many of us reflecting on the true value of our parks and open spaces. As the Coronavirus closed schools, stores and restaurants many people found some freedom in the great outdoors. Many of us found parks and open spaces were the best places to safely spend time with family and friends. During the past few months, Monocacy Hill has seen an unprecedented number of visitors. Unfortunately, Monocacy Hill Conservation Association (MHCA) cancelled their spring hikes and open house, regular volunteer work days weren't held and projects had to be postponed. Several of the MHCA volunteers paired up or worked as individuals to allow social distancing while still doing the important work necessary to keep the trails open and clear. Fall Fern Walks and Walks in the Woods were able to take place, but with some modifications. Each walk was limited to 5 people and participants were asked to wear masks. Walkers were required to contact MHCA to reserve their spot on the walks to control the size of the groups. We hope to see restrictions lifted in time to see everyone at the spring open house!



WALKERS BEWARE: Monocacy Hill permits hunting during the hunting seasons sanctioned by the PA State Game Commission. Last year the PA State Game Commission made some changes to hunting dates and added "hunting Sundays" to the calendar for the fall of 2020. Up until this year, Sundays were days that hunting was not permitted during any hunting season. Sundays added for hunting are November 15th, November 22nd and November 29th. If you are visiting Monocacy Hill for non-hunting activities, you need to be aware of the hunting activities. A complete list of hunting seasons is posted at park entrances. Hunters and non-hunters share this space during all hunting seasons. Hunters wear orange and so should you! Be safe and be seen! Bright colors help hunters distinguish your movement from that of deer or other animals. In the interest of public safety, the Township closes Monocacy Hill to non-hunters during the busiest time of the hunting seasons from Saturday, November 28th to Saturday December 12th with the exception of Sunday, December 6th. Postings of the closure are also placed at park entrances.



HUNTERS TAKE NOTE: Pursuant to Ordinance 306, the discharge of all firearms is prohibited on Monocacy Hill with exception of the following: shotguns, black powder muzzle loaders, bows and arrows and long, recurve and compound bows, in the appropriate hunting seasons only and at NO other time. Use of firearms and bows shall be in accordance with PA State Game Commission Rules and Regulations as in effect from time to time and shall be permitted for hunting licensed individuals only. Rifles and other high-powered firearms are prohibited on Monocacy Hill. The Hill will be posted reminding hunters of the 150-yards "safety zone". It is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase, or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farm house or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide is 50 yards. This also applies to crossbows during any season where they can be used. Archery hunters carrying muzzle loaders during any muzzle loader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. More info can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.

This year, the Emerald Ash Borer killed many trees on Monocacy Hill which were taken down for safety concerns. The loss of Ash trees reminded many of the loss of another valuable tree species many year ago. The American Chestnuts were plentiful in forests and farmsteads across this landscape. Chestnut trees provide quality lumber for building fence posts, homes, barns and furniture. The Chestnuts themselves were an important source of protein for wildlife and livestock. In the early 1900's the Chestnut blight was accidentally introduced into the US and it decimated this valuable tree. The loss of trees was devastating and was considered the greatest ecological disaster to strike the worlds forests. Chestnut trees survived *40 million years* and then disappeared within *40 years*. Based on historical records, we know that Chestnuts were plentiful on Monocacy Hill at one time. Today there are only a few small Chestnut trees that survived the blight and still grow on the Hill. They will never grow to full size. Efforts are being made today by forestry scientists to produce hybrid Chestnut trees that would be resistant to the Chestnut blight. If you want more information about Chestnut trees and the efforts to restore the American Chestnut, check out the American Chestnut Foundation at www.acf.org.

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