

Welcome to

SPRING 2020
Volume XX, Issue I

AMITY TOWNSHIP

Berks County, Pennsylvania



Board of Supervisors

Kim McGrath, Chair
David Hackett, Vice-Chair
Terry Jones • Paul Weller
Kevin Keifrider

Township Manager

Troy S. Bingaman

Township Hours

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

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LOVE YOUR DOG, LICENSE YOUR DOG

There's nothing quite like the horrible feeling you get when you realize your dog or cat has wandered off. Where could they be? Are they cold or hungry? Will they come back on their own? What if someone picks them up? Did you do everything you could do to make sure they get back home? Did you apply or renew their dog license? Were they microchipped and owner information updated? Have they been vaccinated and are they wearing their tags? A million thoughts go through your mind. While you may not be able to keep them from wandering, there are things you can do now to help ensure they get back home.



LICENSE YOUR DOG.

The Department of Agriculture is reminding dog owners to be sure they get a license for 2020. All dogs three months of age and older are required to be licensed. The fee for an annual dog license is \$6.50, or \$8.50 if the animal is not spayed or neutered. Licensing your dog is the best way to ensure they make it home. Applying for and renewing your dog license keeps you legal; not to mention, the cost of the license is a HUGE savings over the possible fine of up to \$300.00 for having an unlicensed dog!

Microchipping also helps your dog get back home and that process has become less expensive over the past few years. Many veterinarians and retail locations host special microchip clinics. Lifetime dog licenses are available for dogs that have permanent identification such as a microchip or tattoo; and discounts are available for qualifying older adults and persons with disabilities. Licensing dollars support the work of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which inspects Pennsylvania's kennels and ensures the health and well-being of the dogs that spend their lives there; investigates and prosecutes illegal kennels and bad actors; protects the public by monitoring PA's dangerous dogs and investigating dog bites; and reunites licensed lost dogs with their families and helps unlicensed lost dogs find shelter.

Pennsylvania dog licenses are available for purchase through Pennsylvania's county treasurers. To ensure you're purchasing a legitimate license and not being scammed, skip the search engine and type www.licenseyourdogpa.pa.gov into your browser's address bar to find your county treasurer's information.

Recently, stray animals and rising costs to municipalities to manage the stray animal population has been a hot topic in Berks County. In Amity Township, when a cat or dog is found, residents should call 610-689-6002 and press 1 to speak to an on-duty police officer. The officer will determine if the animal has been chipped. If it has not, the officer will post a picture and information on the Township and Police Facebook pages, website and Berks Dog Search. Many pet owners are found simply by people sharing this information with friends and family on Facebook. For this, we thank you! Unfortunately, cats or dogs that were not chipped and do not have tags to identify a license, will be taken to a shelter where they will await their family finding them. Of course, our goal is to reunite pets with their families, however; if their family does not find them, these animals can be placed for adoption.

www.amitytownshippa.com | Phone 610-689-6000

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Soliciting / Peddling in Amity Township

Soliciting in Amity Township is governed by Township Ordinance, found in Chapter 17, Part 2 of the Township's Codification. Be advised, Soliciting is a Constitutional Right and case law further dictates the allowance of these activities. Should someone knock on your door to sell products or services, please ask to see a copy of their permit. Permits allow solicitation during certain hours only. If they do not produce a permit, please ask them to leave and contact the Police Department at 610-689-6002 or 610-655-4911. If you would prefer that these folks not knock on your door, we recommend placing a "No Solicitation" sign by your door.

A list of businesses and/or individuals who have been issued Solicitation permits by Amity Township can be found at www.amitytownship.com.



COFFEE WITH A COP

Brook's Breakfast and Lunch Café in Douglassville hosted Amity's first ever Coffee with a Cop event on Wednesday, October 30th. This event gave Officers from the Amity Township Police Department an opportunity to meet and address questions from our residents. The Amity Township Police Department would like to thank all those who attended. We consider this first event successful and look forward to future events like this!

AMITY TOWNSHIP CRIME WATCH

Help Your Community! McGruff Needs YOU! Join the Amity Township Crime Watch Organization. We are looking for new members. Bi-monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of every other month at 7:30pm and held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 548 Old Swede Road in Douglassville. Meetings last 2 to 3 hours. Attend our meetings and meet our Police Liaison, Amity Township Police Officer Tom Gauby, Jr. and hear about incidents in the Township. Guest speakers join most of our meetings. Public attendance is encouraged!

Check out our website at: www.amitytwpcrimewatch.org and our Facebook page. Each year, our group hosts a FREE shred event and would like to do more for our community, but we need your help!

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT



Amity Township Crime Watch
Saturday, April 18, 2020 (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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(fax) 610-670-2591

WHAT IS HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Any household product which is labeled:

CAUTION	DANGER
FLAMMABLE	EXPLOSIVE
	TOXIC
WARNING	CORROSIVE
POISON	VOLATILE

You may also find combinations of these words on the label which may also contain skull and crossbones.

BRING THESE ITEMS:

Turpentine
Wood Preservatives
Paint Thinners & Solvents
Oil Based Paints, Varnishes & Stains
Weed Killers, Insecticides & Pesticides
Herbicides & Fungicides
Asphalt & Driveway Sealants
Antifreeze, Gasoline
Motor & Transmission Oils
Automotive Paint & Finishes
Disinfectants
Rug, Oven & Drain Cleaners
Photographic Chemicals
Button, Lithium & NiCad Batteries
Fluorescent Bulbs

DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS:

Latex Paint
Organic Peroxides
Gas Cylinders
Explosives & Ammunition
Radioactive Waste
Infectious or Medical Waste
Water-Based Sealants



- 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.

**NEED EXTRA MONEY?
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11TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY 2020 • APRIL 22nd 2020

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. A local charity will receive \$20 for each battery you bring in to be recycled.**

Look forward to Recycling with You
www.CHUCKSAS.com

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 singlestream; meaning you place all metal, paper, cardboard, glass and plastic containers 1-7 into your recycling containers. These materials are sorted at the recycling processing center. You should have received a notice from Eagle Disposal for the 2020 collection dates. This information can also be found on our website at www.amitytownship.com.

2020 Amity Township Recycling Collection Calendar

January							February							March							April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

May							June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																											

September							October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

 = Recycling Collection

Observed holidays are noted in **RED**. Collection days that fall on or after the holiday will be delayed one day. **EXCEPTION:** If holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, there is no change in service prior to or after the holiday.

BASIC SERVICE INFORMATION

- Recycling must be curbside by 6:00 AM on your scheduled collection day, which is Wednesday, except as noted on the calendar when a holiday delays collection one day. Residents on routes 422, 662 and 562 must be out by 4:00 AM.
- Extra Containers: If you wish to use an extra container for recycling collection, simply pick up a recycling sticker from Eagle Disposal or the Township building and place it on any container up to 35 gallons and make sure the sticker is visible to the collection crew.
- Recyclables will be collected with a truck that will resemble a trash truck.

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.

WELCOME SPRING!

It's that time of year. As residents begin preparing their yards and properties for warmer weather and picnics, the road crew will be busy working throughout the Township. Restrooms in all public parks will re-open on Monday, April 6th. Street sweeping will begin the first week in April. Yard waste will be collected from April 13th until April 24th. Please have twigs and branches bundled, tied or placed in a brown paper bag no larger than 2'x2' and weighing no more than 20 pounds. The Township offers (3) 40-yard waste dumpsters at the Township building. This past winter, the yard waste dumpsters were re-located to the back parking lot of the Township building, across from the new salt shed. Signs were placed to direct you to the new location.

We recycle everything we possibly can! The Township road crew collected Christmas trees for the first time in 2020. Christmas trees were collected curbside and chipped and will be used at Monocacy Hill and other Township properties. The new chipper was purchased through a PA DEP Recycling Grant.

Warmer weather also means more time on the playground. New playground equipment is slated to be installed this spring at Lake Drive Park. In Spring and Summer of 2019, the Township replaced the playground at Hill Road, pieces of equipment at Amity Community and Locust Grove Parks. We remain committed to keeping kids and adults in our community active!

CONGRATULATIONS SUPERVISOR KEIFRIDER

Supervisor Kevin Keifrider was presented his Master Planner Certificate at the Center for Excellence in Local Government Open House on October 15, 2019. The course provided in-depth instruction on the PA Municipalities Planning Code and the technical components of land use planning and regulation, as well as guidance for building effective working relationships among the commission members, the governing body and the public. Participants of the program learned how to effectively fulfill their responsibilities and assist other local officials in understanding the land use planning process through textbook, hands-on experience and discussion. Kevin Keifrider was appointed as Supervisor to fulfil the vacancy created by the resignation of Richard Gokey in May of 2017 and won the election for a 6-year term in November of 2017. Since taking office, Supervisor Keifrider has been educating himself through training; most notably completing his Master Planner series training amidst his being Chairperson of the Amity Township 300th Anniversary Committee. We're not sure how you found the time for everything, but congratulations on your accomplishment and thank you for everything you do for Amity Township!



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TAX COLLECTOR

Dean Fronheiser is the Tax Collector for Amity Township. Dean will be at the Township building at 2004 Weavertown Road for the following sitting hours for 2020:

MARCH	Wednesdays from 10AM to NOON and from 5PM to 7PM, no hours March 18th
APRIL	Tuesdays, 10AM to NOON and 5PM to 7PM Wednesdays, 5PM to 7PM April 23rd and 30th from 5PM to 7PM
JUNE	June 29th and 30th from 5PM to 7PM

You may also call Dean at 610-689-9227. There is a \$25.00 charge for all returned checks. A fee of \$15.00 is added per bill, when a Tax Claim is filed.

PAVILION RENTALS

Plan your next graduation party, birthday party, baby shower or meeting at one of Amity Township's pavilions.

Amity Community Park is the Township's newest park and offers two pavilions. The main pavilion provides a shady place to hold your gathering with 18 picnic tables, mens and womens restrooms, a refrigerator, electric, and a kitchen area. The Butch Boyer Memorial Pavilion (BBMP) was dedicated in 2014 in memory of Harold "Butch" Boyer. The BBMP was constructed for smaller gatherings, offering 4 picnic tables, mens and womens restrooms and electric outlets. Amity Community Park has a large and small playground, walking trails, courts and athletic fields. Plenty for everyone to do!

Lake Drive Park is centrally located within the Township. The pavilion is conveniently located nearby the playground. New playground equipment is scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2020. The pavilion has electric and eight picnic tables. Mens and womens restrooms at the park are on timers. Adventurous guests can also enjoy the skateboard equipment at the park.

Applications for pavilion rentals can be found on the Township website at www.amitytownship.com. Dates fill up quickly, so plan accordingly! If you should have any questions regarding rentals or availability, please call Pam Kisch at 610-689-6000, ext. 222.



AMITY TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB

Join the Amity Township Lions Club for their Annual Night at the Races at the Oley Fairgrounds Pavilion on March 21st and for their Annual Golf Outing at Blackwood Golf Course on May 30th.

More information can be found at e-clubhouse.org/amitytownship/.

DANIEL BOONE OPTIMIST CLUB

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 28th at 1:00pm at the Amity Community Park

Craft Show – Saturday, April 4th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Daniel Boone Middle School

Trout Rodeo – Saturday, May 9th from 8:00am to 1:00pm at South Birdsboro Archery Rod & Gun Club (Rain Date: May 16th)

More information can be found at www.danielbooneoptimist.com.



TWO YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING

Trying to cope with the tragic loss of a loved one or friend is devastating. When that loss is suffered due to suicide, it may leave families, parents and teachers desperately searching for a way to cope and help children cope with losing a peer.

When a young Daniel Boone student lost her life to suicide in 2016, it left a huge void to fill. One family chose to help their daughter by traveling to the Outer Banks, a place they had always gone to make many happy memories. While there, they found a Little Red Mailbox overlooking the ocean. Inside it, was a journal with many messages people had written. These messages contained some of the most intimate thoughts about losses or needed prayers. Reading through the journal gave the family the idea of bringing a little "hope" to Amity Township.

The family reached out to Amity Township and received permission to install Amity Township's very own Little Red Mailbox of HOPE at Amity Community Park, and the rest is history. Two years and seven journals later, The Little Red Mailbox of HOPE, bearing the initials CJW for the Daniel Boone student still so sadly missed and the slogan #ruOKberks, stands sturdy and strong, helping residents cope and heal. The next time you visit Amity Community Park, stop by and rest on the bench and take the time to read or write your own personal message.

We never know what we'll find at the mailbox. Along with the many journal entries, some visitors have left balloons and a cupcake for the Little Red Mailbox of HOPE's birthday. Thank you to the Trombley Family for bringing hope and healing to our community and Happy 2nd Birthday to the Little Red Mailbox of HOPE!



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Property owners reported seeing substantially less Spotted Lanternflies than they have in the past few years, leaving many of us wondering where did they go? Some residents theorized the eggs may have hatched later due to changes in weather and wetness, while others believe natural fungi and residents' efforts may have helped. Whatever the reason, it's good to see numbers decrease!

Decreased population of SLF doesn't mean we should let our guard down! Remain vigilant. During winter and early spring months, the best way to control future populations of the invasive insect is to destroy their egg masses before they hatch. Be watchful and look around. Spotted Lanternfly egg masses can be found on almost any surface, particularly near tree lines. The insect is notably clever in placing their egg masses on the undersides and protected spaces on trees and objects to protect them from the cold weather. Consider looking closely at the inner air spaces of pallets, the undersides of branches, in the grooves of thick tree bark, beneath picnic tables, and even on discarded trash like foam coolers or other litter found at the edges of tree lines. When freshly laid, egg masses appear as a smear of mud, varying in color from white to tan to grey. As they form and grow over winter, the eggs themselves will become more prominent, placed in rows that appear like corn-on-the-cob. Egg masses that resemble mud may be fresh enough you can crush them until you hear them pop or see liquid come from the eggs. Hardened egg masses should be scraped with a scraper card in a downward motion into a sandwich baggie with a few drops of rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer, making sure the eggs come into contact with the alcohol or sanitizer.

Each egg mass can contain 30-50 eggs. What you do today directly affects how many of these pests you will see in the upcoming months. Amity Township residents have been working hard to reduce the population of the SLF and it appears it's working. Keep up the good work!




Healthy Kids Running Series (HKRS) is a national, community based non-profit that provides a fun, inclusive five-week running series for ages 2 through 14, designed for kids to get active, feel accomplished and lay the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. Traci Huddleson and her group of volunteers in conjunction with their sponsors share their knowledge and commitment to keeping kids happy and healthy by bringing HKRS to Amity Township!

2020 SPRING - ALL RACES BEGIN AT 3:00PM
 April 19 • April 26 • May 3 • May 10 • May 17 • May 31 (Rain Date)

RACE LOCATION
 Amity Community Park
 1967 Weavertown Road
 Douglassville

Online registration will be available.
 Watch for more information at
www.amitytownshippa.com



Amusement Rides • Games • Food

All You Can Ride Specials
 Sunday • Monday • Tuesday • Wednesday

Fireworks – Friday, May 8th,
Rain Date – Saturday, May 9th

Like our Facebook page "Amity Fire Company Carnival" for updated information!



JUNE 10TH THROUGH JUNE 13TH

Good Time Amusements • Free Nightly Entertainment
 Themed Food Nights • Touch A Truck Night
 Fireworks

NEW LOCATION
 Amity Community Park at the Daniel Boone Middle School
 Watch the Blazer Days Carnival Facebook page for more information!



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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 International 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 it's a good chance there aren't any CO alarms in your home if it 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.

Steve Loomis
Director of Codes & Life Safety

<u>YES</u>	IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?	<u>NO</u>
New Deck Placing a Shed Installing a Fence Building Addition Garage Addition Brick/Concrete Patio Retaining wall >4' High Erecting a Sign New Homes New Gas Piping Backup Generator	All Pools >24" deep Home Business Demolition of Structure Roof over Patio New Electrical Circuit New Plumbing Line Enlarging Driveway Sidewalk Replacement All Commercial Work Structural Change or Repair Finishing Basement	Roofing Replacement Gutter Work Dog Fence Landscaping Painting Carpeting Cabinetry Acoustical Ceiling Swing Set Trampoline Security System Fence Repair Plumbing Fixture Replacement Electrical Device Replacement Resurfacing Driveway Non-Load Bearing Wall Retaining Wall <4 ft Height Communication System Same Size Window Replacement HVAC Appliance Repair Propane Tanks & Piping Fish Pond or Pools <24" Tree Removal or Pruning

Permit applications are available at www.amitytownshippa.com or at the Township office. We now accept credit cards and you can even have your permit mailed to you.

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CODE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Reading and understanding Zoning Ordinances and Building Codes can often be a challenge. The Amity Township website is a great resource to find answers to many questions. Just visit www.amitytownshippa.com and start at the top with Departments/Codes. Here you'll find the link to all the electronic permit applications, the Zoning Department, information about on-lot septic systems, the office of the Fire Marshal, the Code Enforcement Office where the electronic form to file a complaint is found, and answers to many of the frequently asked questions.

E-code was a recently added resource and can be found under Government/Codification. There you will find the entire Amity Township Code of Ordinances. At the top is a search bar that is extremely effective. Enter a word like "horse" or "weeds" or "noise" and it takes you everywhere that word appears throughout all 32 Chapters of the Code. It's a great way to find Amity Township regulations on just about everything.

Another great resource is the link to the official Building Code. Just click Departments/Codes/Permits. It will take you to the page where all the electronic permit applications can be found. At the bottom of the electronic applications, you will find links to the International Residential Code for residential construction, The International Building Code for commercial construction and the International Property Maintenance Code for maintaining existing properties.

If you cannot find what you are looking for or don't quite understand it, you can reach the Code Department at 610-689-6000 ext. 232. OR simply select Departments/Codes/Zoning and fill out the Zoning Interpretation electronic application. We will send you an email with an official interpretation.

Steve Loomis

Director of Codes & Life Safety

GETTING READY FOR SPRING AT MONOCACY HILL

Believe it or not, spring is only a few short months away! Monocacy Hill Conservation Association members are busy planning spring hikes and activities. While most of the spring dates have not yet been finalized, we can share that our Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, May 3rd from 10:00am until 5:00pm. A variety of hikes and activities will be offered, along with free snacks and drinks. This annual event is a perfect time to come and see our spring wildflowers!



Hikers walking at a previous spring Open House.



Many species of wildflowers can be found along the trails.

As we look forward to spring, we also know that the trails and facilities at Monocacy Hill need maintenance. A variety of jobs need to be completed in order to keep the trails open and in good condition. Some recent projects included trail restoration, boardwalk building, and wood chips in the picnic area. In late May we always need people for trail trimming. We can always use a few extra hands to get this work done. If you are interested in helping, please call 610-385-3226 or contact us at info@monocacyhill.org.



Volunteers work on the boardwalk.



Part of the installed boardwalk.

Check our website www.monocacyhill.org for upcoming spring dates, work days, hikes and other events. Additional information can also be found on the Monocacy Hill Recreation Area and Monocacy Hill Conservation Association Facebook pages.





Amity Township's Summer Playground Program continues to get better each year. We will be offering a similar program again this summer for children who completed kindergarten through age 12. The program will run from mid-June through mid-August. 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.

CENSUS 2020

It is hard to believe that the 2020 Census is already underway. As we enter the next decade, Census day falls on Wednesday April 1st. In the weeks leading up to April 1st, you will begin to get a reminder in the mail. This year, for the first time, the Census will take place online.

Here's some Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the decennial census?

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs— impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. They also are used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

What this means to our local community is how much money we receive in federal funding. Estimates show for every person undercounted, Berks County could lose up to \$2,093 per person per year in federal funding. That totals to over \$350 million given our projected undercount from the previous census (16,000 people).

Why is it important to me?

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

How can I respond?

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer. Responding should take less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee.

Where can I go to learn more?

You can learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting www.2020census.gov.



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Fact Sheet

November 2019



The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete and you can respond to the census in three ways:



Online



By Phone



By Mail

Your answers help determine:

- The number of seats each state gets in the House of Representatives
- The boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts
- The distribution of more than **\$675 billion in federal funding** to hospitals, fire departments, schools, road repair, and many other projects.

Why is April 1, 2020 so important?

When completing the census, you'll note where you are living on April 1. Even if you fill your form out early, April 1 is used as a reference point.

Remember:

If a child spends time between two homes, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1.

College students not living in their parent's home while attending college should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time.

Parents should include children even if they are in the hospital.

How does the Census Bureau protect my data?

If you submit your census online, your information is encrypted. The Census Bureau's cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information.

Your Census information is confidential.

Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with immigration or law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

DID YOU KNOW?

The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

The Census is required by the Constitution of the United States.

Every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

Avoid Scams!

The U.S. Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party

If a website, e-mail, or person claiming to be from the Census Bureau asks you for one of these things, you may be the target or victim of a scam.

Learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting the official U.S. Census Bureau website. 2020census.gov

Information referenced from the U.S. Census Bureau, provided to you by the Berks County Public Libraries.



COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

What is the Census & Why is it Important?

The U.S. Constitution requires that every person living in the United States is counted every ten years. The next census will take place from **March through July of 2020**.

Census data are important to our democracy – these data determine apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and how district lines are drawn at all levels of government.


Census data also guide the allocation of more than \$800 billion in federal funding to programs that are crucial to the well-being of families and communities.


We only get one chance every ten years at achieving a full count – these data will inform important policy decisions and determine federal funding allocations for a decade.

Undercount was reason for forming Complete Count Committees

1990 Nationwide undercount was about 4%

 **417,854** (2017 Population)

 **16,715** (4% Undercount)

 **\$2,100** (\$/person/year)

× 10 years

\$351,015,000
THE COST OF UNDERCOUNT

What is the Berks Complete Count Committee?

The Berks Complete Count Committee is comprised of government and community leaders. These trusted voices develop and implement a 2020 Census awareness to encourage a response campaign based upon their knowledge of the local community. Community influencers create localized messaging that resonates with the population in their area and are best suited to mobilize community resources in an efficient manner. It includes six subcommittees (with approx. 50 representatives): education, community-based organizations, latino outreach & religious institutions, business & labor, publicity & media, government

Who do we need to reach?

People of Color, Children under 5, Renters, Crowded Households, Immigrants, Low-income populations, People with Limited English Proficiency, People living in multi-family housing

Top 10 Census Guided Federal Programs:

Medicaid
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance (SNAP)
Medicare
Highway Planning and Construction
Section 8 Housing
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies
National School Lunch Program
Special Education Grants
State Children's Health Insurance (CHIP)
Head Start / Early Head Start

When Community Members are informed, they are more likely to respond to the census. Through collaborative partnerships, the U.S. Census Bureau and community leaders can reach the shared goal of counting EVERYONE in 2020.

300 YEARS IN THE BOOKS

Amity Township, Berks County's oldest Township turned 300 years old in 2019 and what a celebration it was! The 10-member Anniversary Committee held celebrations throughout the year to make sure this was one for the history books. Committee Chairperson and Supervisor Kevin Keifrider decided to create a Facebook page and post pictures almost daily, throughout the twelve months of celebration. You didn't have to consider yourself a history buff to find yourself eagerly awaiting the next post, the next tidbit of information about this wonderful place we live. Pictures of our Township long ago stirred up stories that many people haven't thought about in years. It left the Committee wondering, how can we leave it here and just stop reminiscing about the things that make this place such a great and historical place to live? The answer is, we don't leave it at all. There's still so much history to share. The 300th Anniversary Facebook page has evolved into the Amity Township Area History Facebook page. Continue checking in on our page and sharing your pictures and stories of Amity Township and our surrounding communities. We love seeing them!

Winterfest was scheduled to be held on December 31st, but was rescheduled by Mother Nature to New Year's Day. Families from the Township and surrounding areas came out for a day of concerts, kids rides and a New Year's Day bonfire. Those who had plans with families and friends rearranged their schedules and plans to come out and celebrate. Even Olaf and Elsa stopped to celebrate with us. A giant snow globe provided photo opportunities and kids played on inflatable rides until the lights went dark. The evening concluded with one of the areas most impressive fireworks display. What a great way to begin our birthday year!

The Amity History Event was held on April 27th at St. Paul's UCC and co-hosted by George Meiser and members of the Amity Heritage Society. Residents were encouraged to attend and

share pictures, maps and collectible items from Amity's history. A light lunch was served before the official presentation and question and answer session held by George Meiser and Amity Heritage Society.

The Jamboree of Amity was held on May 18th. The parade led guests to Amity Community Park where festivities were underway with giant inflatables for the kids, music, food trucks, local artisan vendors and a beer and wine garden full of local beer and wine flavors.

Summer Splash was held on August 3rd. Some guests cooled off swimming in the pool at the Amity AC, while others enjoyed the water-gearred inflatables. Surely, this event had something for everyone: blood donations were taken by Miller Keystone, a car show was held, an all-day cornhole tournament with prizes, food trucks, a beer and wine garden and concerts all day long. A 300th Anniversary Commemorative Henry Rifle was raffled off and fireworks ended the hot summer night.

We had so much planned for the Amity Harvest Festival in October that one day of celebration just wasn't enough! The event was held October 12th and 13th and was jam packed with carnival ride discount bands, inflatables, live music, kids movies, cornhole tournament, trunk-or-treat, food trucks, local vendors, beer and wine gardens and of course, a bonfire and fireworks.

What an epic way to celebrate our 300th year anniversary! Thank you to all who made donations, volunteered time and came out to enjoy these events. We couldn't have done it without you. With that being said, are you ready to end all the fun? Well, we aren't! After a short poll, the Amity Harvest Festival won as the most enjoyable event and will be repeated annually. The 2020 Harvest Festival will be held October 10th and 11th. We're working with other local organizations to make it an even bigger celebration. Watch for upcoming information on the Amity Township Facebook page and Township website.



2019 Harvest Festival Cornhole Champs
Dave and Kathy Wheeler



300th Anniversary Committee and volunteers
packing cocoa for Winterfest



Not quite an Amity or Monarch Fire truck,
but lots of fun!



County Commissioner Christian Leinbach and State
Representatives Dave Maloney and Dan Meuser
pictured with Chairperson Kim McGrath.



The History Event was well attended!



We'd like to thank you for an incredible year of celebrating!



Yes, that's Olaf in the giant inflatable snowglobe at Amity's Winterfest!

SOLIDS HANDLING PROJECT

Managing an efficient waste water facility comes with a high price tag. Amity Township Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Dave Wheeler and his workers are always looking for ways to make this process more efficient and less costly.

Phase 1 of the Township's Solids Handling Project has been completed; including the installation of a new BDP Belt Filter Press at a cost of \$919,000.00. The new, larger, 1.5-meter press replaced the existing 1-meter press that was installed back in 1990. The old press had become inadequate for solids removal. For the past year staff had been using the existing press, but the Township also paid to have a contractor haul liquid sludge (which is very costly) to another treatment facility just to keep up with the amount of solids being generated each day. The new BDP press now has the capability of pressing a higher percentage of dry sludge solids and can handle a much higher gallons-per-minute volume of liquid sludge. The new press allowed us to discontinue using a contractor to haul liquid sludge, improving the efficiency of the task and ultimately saving the Township in sludge disposal costs.



Phase 2 of the Township's Solids Handling Project will consist of upgrading our aerobic digester air and diffuser system and digester covers. The Waste Water Treatment Plant will also be upgrading to a new emergency generator, which will operate the entire plant under emergency conditions. Completion of this phase has been scheduled to begin sometime this spring.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4)

Due to requirements in the Federal Clean Water Act and the Act 167 Stormwater Management Program, owners of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), like Amity Township, need to develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. Part of this is to educate the public as to what stormwater pollution is, and what we can do to prevent it.

A storm sewer system collects and carries rain and snow water off of impermeable surfaces, such as roads and parking lots. In some cases, the system can even carry spring water. The storm sewer system is composed of catch basins, pipes, swales, and assorted types of inlets and outlets. This water ends up in our streams, rivers and lakes, which are all part of our drinking water supply.



Some pollutants commonly found in storm sewers are:

- Trash or Litter
- Leaked Automotive Fluids
- Sediments
- Leaves and Other Yard Waste
- Animal Waste
- Pesticides and Other Chemicals from Lawns and Farms

Trash, leaves, and sediments clog up storm sewer pipes ultimately causing floods in areas, and eventually litter our waterways. Automotive fluids, animal waste, and chemicals pollute water which can cause damage or death to watershed animals and plants.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Do not throw trash, grass clippings, leaves or other debris in the catch basins
- Maintain your vehicles to prevent fluid leaks
- Follow instructions on pesticide and chemical use, and think of where it may end up once you use it
- Contact the appropriate authority when you see clogged storm sewers, or water flow during dry conditions.

Have you witnessed an illicit discharge into our storm sewer system? Go to our website at www.amitytownshippa.com and complete our Illicit Discharge Reporting Form under Government, MS4 Stormwater Program.

OUTFALL INSPECTIONS

As a part of the Federal requirements, Township employees will do yearly inspections of the stormwater outfalls throughout the Township. You may see these workers taking notes at catch basins, in drainage easements, and along streams near your home. You can do your part by trying to keep drainage easements and outfall areas from having obstructions and by contacting the Township if you see polluted flow in the storm systems.

STORMWATER INLET MARKING

As you may notice around the Township, we have marked storm sewer catch basins with paint or stickers stating, "No dumping, drains to creek". This is part of an EPA mandate to help protect our waterways and to educate residents of the importance of our stormwater systems. Please leave the markings as they are and remember the importance of keeping our waterways clean!

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