

Welcome to

SUMMER 2020  
Volume XX, Issue II



# AMITY TOWNSHIP

*Berks County, Pennsylvania*



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**Township Hours**

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

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## 2020 CHALLENGES

Saying this year has been challenging would be an understatement. 2020 will forever be known as the year the novel coronavirus, a virus that caused a respiratory disease now known as COVID-19, began infecting people and forever changed life as we know it. The first documented cases began in China where they witnessed the virus overtake the people of their country. In late January, Wuhan China had become the epicenter for outbreaks and was placed under an unprecedented lockdown. The United States saw their first coronavirus case confirmed in January and sadly the first confirmed death at the end of February. The virus was confirmed throughout various countries and so began the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring our Country to prepare a plan and do it fast!

Daily news conferences tracking deaths across the world. Cruise ships with infected passengers were not being permitted to dock, leaving many passengers sick and others even dying at sea. In an effort to prevent mass infection and exhausting hospital resources, Governor Wolf declared a Stay at Home Order. Schools closed “until further notice”, causing parents to become teachers. Seniors who worked so many years saw their dreams of prom, senior trips and graduation fade away, robbing parents and students of these proud moments in life. National sports cancelled entire seasons. Non-essential businesses were forced to close, causing the number of unemployed to soar to record numbers, making it near impossible to have claims processed. Dining at a restaurant and carefree shopping were replaced with take out only and delivered groceries and “seniors only” shopping hours. Essential workers became overworked. Healthcare professionals placed their own health and their families’ safety at risk to carry out their oaths, day after day, while witnessing death, devastation and despair. Store shelves were pillaged of toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectants and hand sanitizer.

Social distancing and wearing masks in public have become our new “normal”. However, in the face of a pandemic, we proved that as a community and as a nation America remains unbreakable. Feeling financially and emotionally stressed, neighbors began helping neighbors. Girl scouts and other groups made masks to keep Amity Township Police safe and donated cookies and pizza to keep them well fed! Local businesses who continued losing money by being closed, donated masks and supplies from their inventory, all the while realizing the shortage of PPE could affect their ability to reopen. Drive-by parades of fire trucks, police cars and friends and relatives made sure birthdays and graduations were celebrated even during a stay at home order. Distilleries traded producing liquor for profit to manufacturing hand sanitizer for donation. Famous musicians held at home concerts that would be viewed for free by thousands. Families stayed in touch using social media applications to have dinners or play games together. Families began learning together, playing together and appreciating life’s blessings. Businesses put the community’s well being before their own profits.

Local government and our Country’s senior leadership came together and soon realized we are not just Republicans and Democrats, we are Americans. At the Federal level, stimulus

*continued on page 3*

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payments were distributed, additional funding was provided for unemployment. At a local level, the Amity Township Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to extend the Real Estate Tax "flat period", therefore taxes paid by September 30, 2020 would not have penalties applied.

We realize everyone has made sacrifices during these past few months, and would like to thank our residents for doing their very best to stay healthy and work toward getting back to the freedoms we all enjoyed; the freedom to work, shop and socialize. When those activities resume, please use caution and stay healthy. As you venture out to Township parks you will find signs, reminding everyone to do their part and continue making good choices to help everyone enjoy our facilities safely.



## SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Before this past March and the arrival of the Coronavirus, our biggest nemesis was the Spotted Lanternfly. Spotted Lanternfly bugs begin as eggs laid in a mass of 30-50 eggs. Those egg masses are laid everywhere; on lawn furniture, campers, tires and homes. In spring the eggs begin hatching into ¼-inch sized nymphs that have black bodies with white spots, and are often mistaken for ticks. By the time you read this article, the SLF will have evolved into ½-inch sized nymphs with red bodies, black stripes and white spots; or you may already be seeing adults that are a seemingly prettier form, resembling that of a butterfly. The SLF are more likely to hop than fly making them difficult to kill. But kill them, we must! The best advice: If you see them, kill them! Females can lay multiple masses of 30-50 eggs. Killing adult SLF means less eggs laid and less bugs the following year.

Amity Township was added to the SLF quarantine area in November of 2015. We saw very little activity that year but began seeing them in higher numbers in 2016. It felt like we were under siege in 2017 and 2018. Much like the virus, "the other bug" kept us from socializing with friends in our own backyards. And when the cooler weather settled in, it was like a graveyard of bugs all over the ground. Then, as quickly as they moved in, it seems they moved out. In 2019, many residents reported far less SLF in and around their backyards. This led to speculation of where they went and why. Was our diligence in scraping masses and squashing the bugs successful? Will the bugs just hatch later? Did they hitchhike and migrate to another area? Did fungus kill them? We may never know, but we're certainly hoping we don't see them return this year.

Check out this fun sheet below and keep doing your part to STOP the Spotted Lanternfly!

### Spotted Lanternfly ~ Fun Activities

Have fun while you learn about this pesky bug!

#### Spotted Lanternfly Word Search!

U	N	S	H	T	X	I	L	M	H	C	A	E	P	S	K	H	D
X	G	A	Q	A	T	A	R	B	W	K	Q	I	W	E	T	Q	N
W	O	O	E	L	Y	K	N	S	X	F	A	A	P	B	U	G	
V	O	L	T	H	T	L	O	W	S	A	D	L	A	M	T		
E	V	J	R	P	M	S	U	L	P	F	I	U	Z	R	P	A	S
Q	G	J	E	E	Z	T	H	O	J	E	Z	L	C	G	X	L	J
L	W	F	E	V	D	S	T	F	N	H	F	T	T	I	U	R	F
O	Z	U	J	O	V	T	E	O	Y	H	W	K	N	F	J	E	M
G	T	I	O	L	E	A	T	S	K	C	P	W	M	B	I	F	
G	H	R	P	D	K	S	G	Y	L	F	N	R	E	T	N	A	L
I	S	K	U	B	I	N	V	A	S	I	V	E	O	T	H	J	K
N	D	E	X	P	N	B	B	H	K	M	H	C	X	P	K	S	S
G	U	W	G	E	S	C	R	A	P	E	V	E	M	K	C	S	U
U	J	E	O	G	L	S	H	V	C	L	S	Y	S	Z	T	A	U
G	E	H	O	G	P	E	S	T	E	Y	N	Y	Z	U	D	M	U

Find these words hidden in the puzzle. Words can be forward, backward, up, down, and diagonal.

ADULT	LANTERNFLY	SAP
BUG	LOGGING	SCRAPE
EAT	MASS	SPOTTED
EGG	NYMPH	STONE
FRUIT	OUTDOORS	TREE
GRAPES	PEACH	WOOD
INVASIVE	PEST	

#### Don't Pack a Pest!

It's time to pack the camper. The Smithers need to make sure no Spotted Lanternfly travel with them. Help them inspect before they leave the campground.

1

4

3

2

**Spinner**

**How to play:** You need 1 or 2 people to play this game. Find a small, straight twig to use on the spinner and use pebbles as game pieces. First person to check their gear wins!

**Start here.** You remember the checklist. Move ahead 3 spaces.

**Yummy!** Move forward 1 space.

**Oh no!** An egg mass on a picnic table! Go back 3 spaces.

An egg mass on a wheel well. Back 4 spaces.

A first instar. Back 3 spaces.

You remember "See it, Scrape it". Move ahead 2 spaces.

Hurry! The sun is setting. Move ahead 1 space.

You see adults on Tree of Heaven. Back 1 space.

A dying grape vine. Go back 4 spaces.

You've inspected everything and packed it up. Good Job!

Heading home after a great camping trip. No Spotted Lanternfly travelling with Mr. and Mrs. Smithers!

3

## 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) – 610-385-3400, Ext. 1
- ✓ (Public) Sewer Emergencies (after hours) – 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.



The Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 20-14 on May 6, 2020, extending the flat-rate period for 2020 Amity Township Real Estate Taxes. Amity Township Real Estate Tax payments received by September 30, 2020 will not be assessed a penalty. Payments received after September 30, 2020 will have a penalty of 10% of the taxpayer's tax liability.

Dean Fronheiser is the elected Tax Collector for Amity Township. The Township building is currently open to the public.

County and Municipal Real Estate Tax payments may be mailed to the address on the face of the bill or placed in the drop box at the entrance of the Township building. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like to receive a receipt.

## TAXES – Use this list to make sense of who bills you for taxes and where to call:

- ✓ County and Municipal Real Estate Taxes  
Amity Township Tax Collector Dean Fronheiser – 610-689-9227
- ✓ Earned Income Tax (EIT), Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau – 610-372-8439
- ✓ Local Services Tax – Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau – 610-372-8439
- ✓ Per Capita Tax, Daniel Boone School District – 610-582-6107, Ext. 1
- ✓ Property Assessment Questions, Berks County Assessment Office – 610-478-6262
- ✓ School District Real Estate Taxes, Daniel Boone School District – 610-582-6107, Ext. 1

School District Real Estate and Per Capita Taxes can be mailed to PO BOX 6827, Ithaca NY 14851. Payment can be made in person, with a copy of your tax bill at Tomkins VIST Bank, 350 W. Main St, Birdsboro and Tomkins VIST Bank, 4361 Perkiomen Ave, Exeter.

## INTERNET PURCHASE EXCHANGE LOCATION

If you're like most of us, you're shopping online even more these days. Less contact, less germs and no waiting in lines!

If you don't know who you're meeting, don't compromise your safety by arranging to meet at a stranger's house or bring them to yours. Instead, meet in a public place or better yet, be our guest! Amity Township Police created two parking spaces specifically for internet purchases. These parking spaces are located in back of the Police Station at 2004 Weavertown Road and are under surveillance.

Whether you're buying or selling merchandise, why risk your safety? Stop by and use our Internet Exchange parking spaces.

Stay safe and happy shopping!



## MONOCACY HILL

One of the most beautiful and vast parks in our Township is Monocacy Hill. With over 400 acres of trees and paths, it is one of our greatest treasures. With the Stay at Home Order in place, the Hill quickly became a hot spot for people to hike and enjoy the outdoors. Signs have also been placed at Monocacy Hill reminding visitors to follow CDC guidelines, following social distancing guidelines and wear masks to help keep everyone safe.



All of the previously scheduled public hikes and activities planned by Monocacy Hill Conservation Association (MHCA) have been cancelled to comply with the Governor's order. Likewise, very little maintenance work has been done at the park during the first half of 2020. MHCA's faithful volunteers managed to keep the trails open and safe for park visitors. Volunteers are hoping they can catch up on additional trail work this fall. There are plenty of jobs to do and they could always use help! Anyone who wishes to volunteer with our trail maintenance team should contact MHCA at [info@monocacyhill.org](mailto:info@monocacyhill.org).



Ash Trees are dying throughout Pennsylvania (as well as 34 other states) as they became victim to the Emerald Ash Borer, a non-native insect. Unfortunately, Monocacy Hill was not exempt from this damage, and the Township contracted to have the hazardous Ash Trees downed and removed along the hiking trails early this past spring. Penn State University has estimated that Pennsylvania will lose over 90% of its Ash Trees to this pest!

At left is just one of the many Ash Trees that were removed from Monocacy Hill, showing the damage of the Emerald Ash Borer.

This past March, Supervisor Kevin Keifrider and Randy Westley led two groups of 20 walkers on a walking history tour of Monocacy Hill. The tour took about two hours and went around the entire base of The Hill. Participants learned about Monocacy Hill and took some pictures along the way.

The 300th anniversary may be behind us, but there is still so much to learn about this beautiful Township. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to our wonderful tour guides!



## SOLICITING / PEDDLING

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 between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Saturday. If they are unable to 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](http://www.amitytownship.com).

### 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.



# Coronavirus COVID-19



CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE  
NOVEL  
RESPIRATORY  
ILLNESS  
SPREAD  
DROPLETS  
VIRUS  
COUGHS  
SNEEZES  
BREATHE  
TOUCHING  
SURFACE  
MOUTH  
NOSE  
POSSIBLY

EYES  
CLOSE  
CONTACT  
INFECTED  
RISK  
HEALTH  
CARE  
WORKERS  
MILD  
SEVERE  
DEADLY  
FEVER  
COUGH  
SHORTNESS  
BREATH

Source: MedlinePlus, National Library of Medicine.  
<https://medlineplus.gov/coronavirusinfections.html>



See Page 12 for solution

## ARE YOU A VETERAN? IF YOU ARE, *THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!*



You were there for your country and whether you are a veteran or a dependent/spouse/widow of a veteran and need benefit information, help with housing or someone to talk to, you are never alone. The dedicated staff at Berks County Veterans Affairs can help educate you on exactly what services are available.

The mission of the local Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs is to administer a comprehensive array of benefit programs and provide assistance with services pertaining to claims for the veterans of Berks County and their dependent widows/widowers and orphans in the most expeditious and accountable manner they can. During the COVID-19 pandemic and until permitted, the Berks County Veterans Affairs office in Reading will remain closed to the public. Inquiries will continue to be handled seven days a week by email and by telephone (610-378-5601) from 8:00am to 5:00pm.



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## LAWN MAINTENANCE

Summer is almost here! 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.

Please Note: The Amity Township Board of Supervisors adopted the International Property Maintenance Code, which states all grasses on your premises must be maintained and not exceed 10" in length. Should you know of a property owner that is not maintaining their property in compliance, you may certainly file a complaint on the Amity Township website [www.amitytownshippa.com](http://www.amitytownshippa.com). Some properties are vacant or in foreclosure. In these cases, should they be in violation and after notifying the owner or bank and it remains noncompliant after 5 days, the Amity Township mowing contractor is notified to begin maintenance.



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## PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

With more residents home during the pandemic, that means more vehicles parked on the street and more time on our hands. Many residents are using this extra time to complete “honey do lists” and home improvement projects. Residents have been calling with questions about what types of vehicles may be parked on the street and whether Amity Township permits PODs or dumpsters in the street. Chapter 19 of the Amity Township Code of Ordinances, Section 404 states:

404(a) no recreational vehicle, whether motorized or non-motorized, including but not limited to travel trailers, motor homes, truck campers, tent campers, trailers, boats and trailers, snowmobiles and trailers and any other similar vehicles shall be parked on any street within the Township; provided, however, that such vehicles may be parked on the public street temporarily for the purpose of loading and unloading such vehicle, in which case it may be temporarily parked for not more than 24 hours in each week (Sunday through Saturday).

404(b) no truck, tractor, semi-trailer, trailer or other vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds (Weight Class 6 or greater) or having a width in excess of 80 inches shall be parked on any street within the Township, except for the purposes of making pick-ups, deliveries or construction activities, in which case it may be temporarily parked for not more than eight hours between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

404(c) no construction equipment or materials shall be parked or stored on any street within the Township. No dumpster or storage container shall be placed on any street within the Township. Please Note: This means you may not place a dumpster or POD in the public street.

Laws are passed with safety in mind. If you believe you see a vehicle parked illegally on a public street within the Township, please call 610-689-6002 and press 1 to speak to an on-duty Police Officer.

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## RV PARKING ON PROPERTIES

If you're a camper, and are looking forward to camping season, please be aware of the following:

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.

***Thanks for your cooperation, Code Enforcement Department***



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Thank You

The Township Supervisors and Administration thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and recognize each as supporters of our community. For it is with their participation that this newsletter has been published at no cost to our residents.



## DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

As warmer weather approaches, it's the perfect time to complete those projects around the house! Please check below to find out what requires a permit and what doesn't. If you have any other questions please call 610-689-6000, ext. 232. Electronic applications are available at [www.amitytownship.com](http://www.amitytownship.com), under Departments/Codes/Permits.

### **Zoning Permit Required**

- \* Sheds
- \* Pools where water depth is greater than 24" deep
- \* Fences
- \* Additions
- \* Garages (attached or detached)
- \* Decks
- \* Driveway (new or extension)
- \* New Homes
- \* Patios
- \* Any change of use or occupancy of a commercial building
- \* No-impact home-based business
- \* Signs
- \* Demolition of a structure
- \* Home Occupations

### **Building Permit Required**

- \* Accessory structures greater than 500SF (sheds, detached garages)
- \* Pools where water depth is greater than 24" deep
- \* Additions
- \* Decks over 30" above grade or supported by a dwelling
- \* Commercial repairs, additions, improvements or alterations
- \* New dwellings or buildings
- \* Roofs over patios
- \* Any change of occupancy to a commercial building
- \* Signs at commercial properties
- \* Temporary structures
- \* Mechanical additions such as piping, wiring, lighting, heating and cooling
- \* Finishing of Basements

### **NO Permit Required**

- \* Roof Replacement on a residential structure
- \* Siding replacement
- \* Retaining walls not over 4' high
- \* Residential swings and playgrounds
- \* Pools or hot tubs where water depth is less than 24" deep
- \* Gutters and downspouts
- \* Appliance replacement
- \* Security systems
- \* Propane or liquefied petroleum appliances and associated piping
- \* Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops and similar finishing work
- \* Resurfacing or sealing driveway
- \* Replacing a furnace with the same size and same type
- \* Invisible dog fences
- \* Fish Ponds
- \* Window Replacement of same size and type
- \* Resale of Residential Properties



# **Pennsylvania 811**

**Damage Prevention Starts with One Call.  
Dial 8-1-1 Before You Dig.**

**PA Law Requires 3 Business Days Notice**  
1-800-242-1776  
[www.paonecall.org](http://www.paonecall.org)

## **AMITY TOWNSHIP CODE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES**

Amity Township provides e-Code, which can be a valuable source of information. Visit [www.amitytownship.com](http://www.amitytownship.com) and this information is found under Government, Codification of Ordinances. At the top you will see a search bar that is extremely effective. Enter a word like "accessory structure", "horse" or "weeds" and it will then show you everywhere in all 32 Chapters of the Code where that word appears. It's a great way to find regulations on just about everything. If you want to narrow a search, check the checkbox of the Chapter(s) you want to search in and click "Search Chapters", then enter the word or topic you are searching.

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. They have all been adopted by Amity Township.

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, email Steve at [sloomis@amitytownship.com](mailto:sloomis@amitytownship.com) or simply select Departments/Codes/Zoning and fill out the Zoning Interpretation electronic application. We will send you an email with an official interpretation.

## 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](http://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, September 19, 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 truck.

*Help stop identity theft. Shred your out-dated documents!*

[www.amitytwpcrimewatch.org](http://www.amitytwpcrimewatch.org)  
Susan- 610-385-3740



[www.proshred.com](http://www.proshred.com)  
484-323-2100



## VACATION CHECK

Leaving for vacation? Remember, an accumulation of mail, newspapers or high grass puts burglars on alert that someone isn't home.

Don't forget these important safety precautions:

- ✓ Stop your mail or have a neighbor collect it.
- ✓ Have neighbors pick up newspapers.
- ✓ Lock the house, garage, and sheds.
- ✓ If lights aren't on timers, you may want to leave a lamp or low-watt light on.
- ✓ Don't leave spare keys outdoors.
- ✓ Arrange for lawn care if you'll be gone for a week or longer.
- ✓ Request a Vacation House Check.

Vacation House Checks are provided by Amity Township Police at no charge to our residents. Police will conduct periodic property inspections while you're away. When you're planning your next vacation, be sure to stop by the Municipal building during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. You can save some time by completing the form ahead of time. Print the form from our website at [www.amitytownship.com](http://www.amitytownship.com) under About Us. Just print it, complete it, drop it off at the Municipal building and enjoy your vacation with one less worry!





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## TOWNSHIP PROJECTS

The heavy rains from last July left the Township's sewer right-of-ways heavily rutted and the stormwater infrastructure with extensive damage. The road crew will be finishing up the remaining storm sewer repairs over the next few weeks. The Township storm sewer system along Levensgood Road sustained major damage, leaving the headwall and entire 36" storm sewer pipe on Levensgood Road needing replaced. Storm sewer repairs needed to be completed prior to the annual paving work that was scheduled. Two catch basins will be repaired prior to Russell Avenue being paved from Ivy Lane to Old Swede Road (SR662). Catch basins and new storm sewer pipe were replaced on Redwood Drive prior to paving. Ash Court and Crestwood Court are also scheduled to be repaved. Please note: Crews try to minimize the impact to residents by limiting the closure of roads. Some lanes may be limited or closed for short periods of time. Please be cautious and mindful when driving in areas where traffic is impacted. THANK YOU for your understanding and patience.



PennDOT and Amity Township have joined efforts to improve the drainage along SR422 near R&R Games. While that area experienced stormwater drainage issues in the past, the heavy rainfall in July of 2019 had surging storm water overflowing the median like a waterfall from the Westbound to the Eastbound sides of the highway. Township and PennDOT officials held on-site meetings to determine what caused the issue and needed to be repaired to prevent future issues. This project should be complete between spring and summer 2020.

Township crews worked alternating shifts due to social distancing protocols. Crews were able to ensure daily work completed; however, the Lake Drive Park Rehabilitation Project will be delayed until Spring of 2021. This includes the resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts, upgrades to lighting and the skate park as well as replacement of the playground equipment.

## YARD WASTE

The Township provides (3) 40-yard containers at the rear of the Township complex, for yard waste drop off. Please read the signs on those containers that describe what materials can be placed inside and outside of the containers. Shrubs, brush, leaves and grass clippings can be placed inside the containers. Limbs and branches can be placed inside or on the ground next to the containers if they are full.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Rocks, railroad ties, flower bed liners and plastic trash bags are not recyclable! When these items are disposed here it costs the Township to remove those materials before recycling.



## NEW LOCATION COMING SOON TO NORTH COVENTRY

### Tower Health Urgent Care

44 Glocker Way  
Pottstown, PA 19465

For more information, visit [THUrgentCare.org](http://THUrgentCare.org).

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Most insurances accepted.*

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9 a.m. to 9 p.m.**



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## What is Hazardous Waste?

Any household product which is labeled:

CAUTION	DANGER	WARNING
FLAMMABLE	EXPLOSIVE	POISON
CORROSIVE	VOLATILE	TOXIC

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 Sealant

**Please Note: Special Waste Collection will NOT take place until COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, in the best interest of public safety.**



### DID YOU KNOW?

- 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.

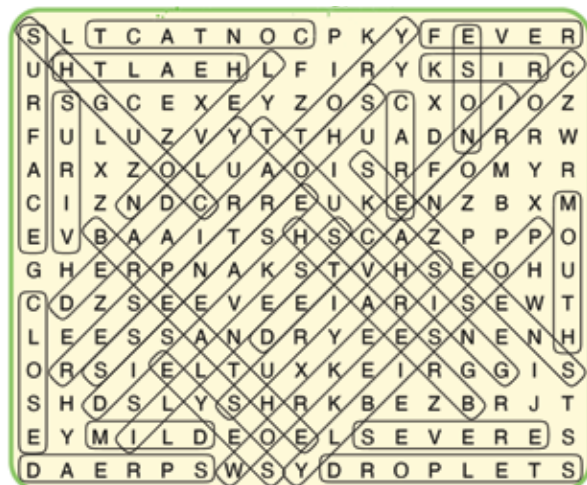
Collection dates are intended to provide **Berks County** residents with a responsible way to dispose of old, unusable and unwanted hazardous products. Putting these items in the trash or down the drain contributes to the pollution of our air and drinking waters.

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



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NOVEL RESPIRATORY ILLNESS	SNEEZES	CLOSE	SEVERE
SPREAD	BREATHE	CONTACT	DEADLY
DROPLETS	TOUCHING	INFECTED	FEVER
VIRUS	SURFACE	RISK	COUGH
	MOUTH	HEALTH	SHORTNESS
	NOSE	CARE	BREATH
	POSSIBLY	WORKERS	

Source: MedlinePlus, National Library of Medicine. <https://medlineplus.gov/coronavirusinfections.html>



# Draining Pools, Hot Tubs & Spas



## What substances in pools, hot tubs, or spas could cause pollution?

Chlorine and/or other disinfectants are typically added in sufficient amounts to kill potentially harmful bacteria. These disinfectants also react with other organic matter such as dirt, sweat, skin cells, leaves, and organisms creating potentially harmful disinfection byproducts. Other contaminants are added from the users, such as oil and grease from natural body oils and applied lotions and sunscreens. Chemicals commonly used in maintaining these systems, such as salt, borax, algacides, phenols, caustic, and acid solutions, can be deadly to fish and other aquatic life. Backwashing of pool filters also contributes accumulated debris. All of these chemicals and materials have the potential to cause pollution and adversely affect public health and waters of the commonwealth.

## What are acceptable methods for managing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa waters?

The best approach for managing these wastewaters is disposal into a public sewer system or at a sewage treatment facility, with authorization of the sewer system owner. A permit is generally not necessary to reuse or recycle pool wastewaters, but approval from the owner of a sewer system or sewage treatment facility is typically required. Some municipalities have enacted additional requirements related to discharges from pools. Contact your municipality if you're unsure whether additional guidelines exist.

## What if no public sewer is available?

The wastewater can be drained and allowed to infiltrate into a vegetated area or used for on-site irrigation after these guidelines are met:

1. Shut off the chlorination/chemical feed system if there is one, or stop adding chlorine and chemicals.
2. Shut off the heating system, if there is one.
3. Hold the water in the pool or hot tub to reduce the chlorine level to 0.5 mg/L or less (if applicable), and the temperature to an acceptable level (generally within 10° F of the air temperature).
4. Test frequently – the water may need to be held for 10 days or more depending on the surrounding conditions. Recirculating the water may help to speed up this process.
5. Adjust the pH, if necessary, to between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units.
6. Never drain the pool on a rainy day or if the soil is saturated.

## When discharging on-site for infiltration or using the water for irrigation, ensure that:

- The water will not flow into a storm sewer or other water of the commonwealth.
- The water does not run off the property.
- Nuisances such as prolonged ponding, odors, and mosquito breeding conditions are prevented.

- The flow rate is slow enough to allow infiltration and does not cause erosion.
- Solids are captured by attaching a filter bag to the end of the discharge hose, if needed.

## May water from swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas be discharged to onlot septic systems?

No, pool water should not be discharged into or on the surface of onlot systems because the system is not designed for the additional flow and the contaminants could impact the operation.

## May chemicals (e.g., strong acids or caustics) be used to clean my pool, hot tub, or spa?

Yes, as long as the wastewater is captured or collected, properly treated and disposed of, and prevented from entering waters of the commonwealth, including storm sewers.

## How should wastewater from cleaning my pool be handled, properly treated and disposed of?

Cleaning wastewaters that contain acid, caustics, or chlorine rinses used to clean pool surfaces should be treated prior to discharge. All wastewaters, but especially cleaning wastewater, must be neutralized to a pH between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units. Chlorine rinses can be dechlorinated or should stand for a period of 10 days to allow chlorine degradation to a residual of 0.5 mg/L or less prior to discharge.

Any pool wastewaters that have unnatural cloudiness, color, oil film, solids, foam, debris, vegetation, algae, or are not or cannot be properly treated, should be collected and hauled to a treatment facility in accordance with the facility's guidelines.

## What should be done with standing water that has accumulated in a pool?

Standing water, accumulated rainfall, or pool water from the previous season should be pumped from the top, but only if the chlorine residual and pH values are acceptable, to avoid disturbing solids on the pool bottom, which should not be discharged. After the water has been pumped, manually clean out the solids.

## Could someone who causes pollution by discharging water from swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas be penalized?

If the DEP determines that the management of swimming pool, hot tub, and spa wastewaters has caused pollution to waters of the commonwealth, the responsible party could be liable for civil penalties up to \$10,000 per day under the Clean Streams Law.

**For questions and additional information, contact the Clean Water Program in DEP's South-Central Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 or call 1-717-705-4700 and 24-Hour Emergency Line 1-866-825-0208 and online at [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov).**

# KEEPING YOUR STREAMS AND LAKE HEALTHY...

## 1. GET YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN OFF DRUGS!

- Limit the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers — and avoid using chemicals entirely in wet weather.
- Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers run off into creeks and streams — and eventually into Lake Erie. Fertilizers add excessive nutrients to natural waters that lead to algae bloom, bad odors from lack of oxygen, and fish kills. Pesticides and herbicides kill fish and their food sources.
- Consider using compost instead of fertilizer and natural means to control pests and plant disease.

## 2. FEED YOUR STREAM RIGHT

- Never pour oil, grease, detergent from car washing, gasoline, antifreeze, paint products, carpet-cleaning chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, or other toxic substances down street storm drains. Storm drains flow directly into creeks, which flow directly into Lake Erie. All of these substances are toxic to fish and other stream-dwelling organisms. Grease and oil coat fish gills, deplete the oxygen supply, and smother bottom-dwelling organisms.

## 3. DON'T PLUG YOUR ARTERIES

- Dispose of garbage at your curbside pickup or landfill — not in creeks or streams. Some people think of creeks as garbage dumps. Look in our streams, and you'll find shopping carts, mattresses, car parts, plastic, cans, Styrofoam, yard debris, and paper litter. Debris creates dams that cause flooding and erosion. Litter is mistaken by wildlife for food and can be toxic or cause starvation. Backed-up water is a breeding place for rodents and mosquitoes. If you need help removing or disposing of debris, contact your Borough, Township, or Chamber of Commerce, who can direct you to local volunteer organizations.

This guide has been funded by the League of Women Voters of the Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 Federal Clean Water Act grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information on stream health:  
• <http://pa.lvw.org/wren/>  
• <http://www.epa.gov/>  
• <http://dep.state.pa.us/>

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## 4. GIVE YOUR CREEK ENOUGH OXYGEN TO LIVE

- Many forms of pollution deplete oxygen in the streams and Lake Erie. Oxygen depletion creates "dead zones" in the lake where nothing can live.
- Compost lawn clippings, leaves, and soil instead of putting them in streams. These materials are biodegradable, but they use oxygen in the water to break down and thus deplete the oxygen available for aquatic life.
- Limit your use of lawn fertilizer and control its runoff. Runoff from excessive lawn fertilizing causes algae blooms, which deplete oxygen in streams.
- Drain pools and hot tubs into grassy areas, not into the street or stream. This allows the chlorine to dissipate into the air before it enters the stream where it is toxic to fish.

## 6. KEEP THE STRESS TO YOUR STREAM LOW

- Check downspouts and other pipes to see where they drain. Direct pipes to grassy areas so that runoff water can filter and lessen in volume before entering the stream. Runoff causes stream surges during storms that cause bank erosion and wash pollution into streams.
- Control drainage in paved areas, such as driveways, parking lots, and patios. Consider surrounding paved areas with grassy sunken strips, shrubs, or trees, which can make the area more attractive as well as filter runoff pollutants. Don't shovel excess snow into the streams and lakes. Road salt contains chlorides, which are toxic to aquatic life.
- Don't rake leaves or lawn clippings into the storm drain or creek. Instead, mulch leaves when you mow and leave them on the lawn or add them to your compost pile. Leaf mulch is good for your lawn. Borough residents can rake leaves to the curb for pick-up.

## 5. PROVIDE A STABLE ENVIRONMENT

- Maintain or improve stream-side vegetation. Trees stabilize banks, provide habitat for birds and small mammals, and keep water temperature cool for fish. Removing natural vegetation leads to eroded stream banks and property loss. Modify steep banks to form shallow slopes or create terraces, and replant with native plants.
- Check for erosion regularly and correct problems promptly. Soil, sand, and fine gravel can fill in the creek bed and reduce its ability to carry flood waters. Erosion debris destroys pools, eliminates shelter and fish spawning habitat, and diminishes food supplies for fish and aquatic insects. A vegetated slope is the best defense.

## 7. GO NATURAL

- Landscape with native plant species. Native plants provide erosion protection during high flows and are adapted to recover quickly when flood waters subside. Native species require less water and fewer chemicals than other plants.
- Consider using compost instead of chemical fertilizers.
- In winter, use sand, gravel, or other natural substances on your walkways and driveways instead of salt.
- Pave only where necessary. Paving increases runoff during storms, adding to flooding and erosion problems. Paving contributes to lower creek flows during the dry summer months and depletes the overall water table.

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Summer 2020  
Volume XX, Issue I I

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