

Welcome to

SPRING 2021  
Volume XXI, Issue I



# AMITY TOWNSHIP

*Berks County, Pennsylvania*



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**Township Hours**

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

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## PRIMARY AMBULANCE SERVICES

In the later part of 2020, after careful consideration of emergency services providers, the Amity Township Board of Supervisors selected Western Berks EMS (WBEMS) to become the primary EMS provider in the Township. WBEMS is a community-based non-profit ambulance service, that has been providing emergency and non-emergency services to the western area of Berks County, and emergency medical services to neighboring municipalities for over 60 years. WBEMS will be stationed locally at Amity Fire Company in a temporary structure until they can find their new forever home in Amity Township.

WBEMS was chosen because they offer the most state-of-the-art life-saving equipment, Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support ambulances, non-emergency wheelchair transport services for doctor appointments and/or any wheelchair travel needed, an AED training and loaner program and their willingness to sponsor local community events such as health events, car seat safety checks, medical services for high school sporting events and National Night Out.

Residents should have received a welcome letter from WBEMS, as well as membership drive information. Residents who previously purchased 2021 membership with other ambulances such as Southern Berks Regional EMS will have membership reciprocity; meaning, no matter what ambulance responds to your location they will honor your current ambulance membership. Southern Berks Regional EMS provided primary emergency services for many years in Amity Township and we thank you for your services.

WBEMS began providing services in January 2021 and has had excellent feedback from residents and other first responders. Welcome, Western Berks Ambulance!



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## Summers Nagy Law Offices

Jill E. Nagy  
*Esquire*

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Reading, PA 19610

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610-939-9863 fax

jnagy@summersnagy.com  
summersnagy.com



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12TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY 2020  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 • 9AM-2PM

The community is invited to bring their Automotive waste, oil, antifreeze, battery, and tires (limit 4) between 9am and 2pm for proper disposal. NO GASOLINE. A local charity will receive \$20 for each battery you bring in to be recycled.

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## ANOTHER FIRST IN BERKS – ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES



Amity Township Police Department began contracting services with Animal Control Officers (ACO) Jon and Tracy Daywalt in November 2020. The ACO's provide this same service to a number of municipalities in western Montgomery County and now for Amity Township.

As many of you know, Amity was the first township to be incorporated in Berks County in 1719; and, on November 1, 2020, at a small swearing in ceremony held by the Honorable Steve Chieffo, Amity became the first Berks County municipality serviced by the Daywalts.

If you find a lost domesticated animal (dog, cat) or have any animal related incidents, please call the non-emergency number 610-689-6002.

Thank you to all of our residents who rally the help of friends and family on Facebook to help find owners of lost pets. Because of you, many pets find their way home within a day or sometimes, just hours.

## 2020 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Amity Township Detective Michael DiMaria and Birdsboro Police Officer Craig Reinhart who received the Daniel Boone Optimist Club's 2020 Officer of the Year Awards during the Daniel Boone Optimist Club's Respect for Law presentations.

As a part of the Respect for Law Program, the Optimist Club was able to recognize and honor both officers for their continued commitment towards the service and protection of our community. Right, Optimist Club Board member Steve Chieffo presented Detective DiMaria with the award at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 18, 2020.

Amity Township is very fortunate to have a staff of professional and dedicated detectives and police officers in our community. They are a credit to their profession and remain a most cherished asset to our community. Thank you for all you do!

If you happen to see Detective DiMaria, congratulate him on his award.



## 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:**

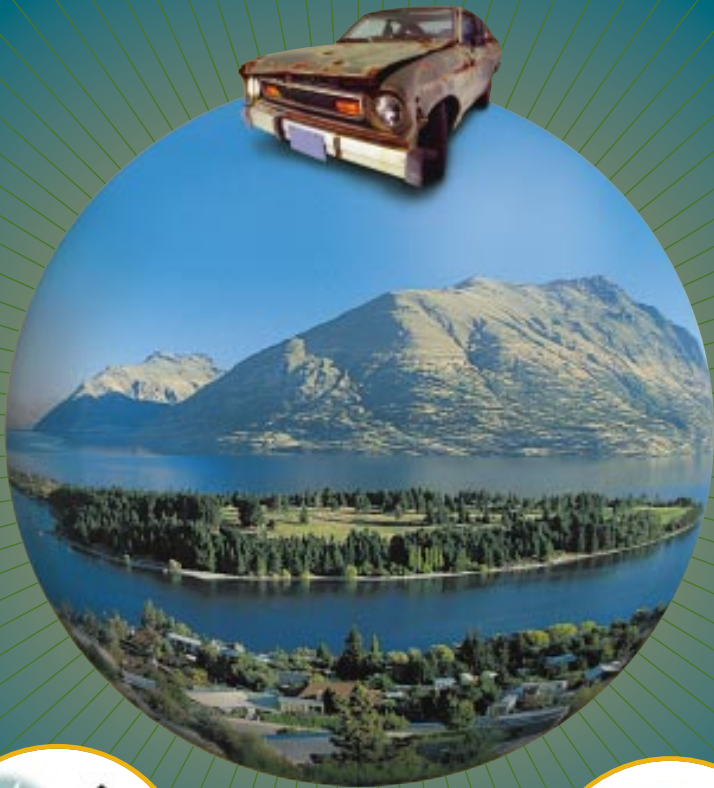
- ✓ Stop your mail or have a neighbor collect it.
- ✓ Have neighbors pick up newspapers.
- ✓ Lock the house, garage and sheds.
- ✓ If lights aren't on timers, you may want to leave a lamp or low-watt light on.
- ✓ Don't leave spare keys outdoors.
- ✓ Arrange for lawn care if you'll be gone for a week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



# Only Rain in the Drain

Stormwater protection starts with YOU!



### Remove fluids from incoming vehicles

Drain fluids from incoming vehicles to reduce the possibility of spills when parts are removed later, and time and cost to your business from cleaning up leaks and spills.

Drain vehicle fluids before dismantling fluid-containing parts, placing vehicles in the yard for long-term storage, or crushing.



### Handle drained fluids properly

Store fluids properly to reduce the amount of contaminants that end up in stormwater. Confine fluid storage to designated areas that are covered and have adequate secondary containment.

Keep all storage containers away from storm drains, and don't leave open drain pans around the shop.



### Drain, cover and contain all oily parts

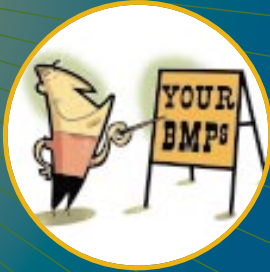
Store engines, transmissions, and other oily parts to avoid exposure to rain or snowfall.

Store these parts indoors or under a roof on an impervious surface, if you store oily parts outside, use weather- and leak-proof covered containers, or place them in vehicle bodies.



### Routine housekeeping is important

Clean up spills promptly and thoroughly. Use shop rags and oil dry to clean up smaller spills, and keep spill kits available in the areas where you conduct dismantling, fluid removal, and fluid storage. Sweep paved surfaces and clean absorbent material daily to reduce sediment and contaminant buildup.



### Train all relevant employees in your BMPs

Employee training is critical! Train employees on stormwater management procedures, especially during the wet season and before it rains or snows. All employees must be trained upon their initial hire and at least once per year thereafter.

## IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

### YES

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

### NO

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 online or at the Township office. The Township accepts credit cards and checks over the phone. You can even have your permit mailed to you!

## 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.

If you have any questions regarding carbon monoxide alarms and/or permits, please call Steve Loomis at 610-953-0023.



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.

## AMITY TOWNSHIP RECYCLING COLLECTION



Amity Township made application and was awarded a PADEP Recycling grant in the amount of \$158,500.00. Funds from the grant will be used toward the purchase of a 2020 John Deere Backhoe. The Township provides (3) 40-yard waste containers at the municipal building for residents to dispose of leaves, brush, small stumps, flake board, composite board, wood trusses, wood reels and clearing materials yard waste. The backhoe will be used to compact the yard waste collected from those containers. Grant funds will also be used toward the purchase of a 2020 Leaf Vacuum. The Township currently has (2) leaf vacuums, but has witnessed an increase in the number of leaves. The addition of the new leaf vac will allow for faster, more efficient leaf collection in the fall. In the future, the Township will be looking to build a pole building at the municipal building to store equipment inside and away from the elements.

I've heard it's only windy on Wednesdays in Amity, or maybe that's what it feels like because it's recycling collection day. First, we'd like to say thank you for recycling so much. Second, we'd like to ask for your help. Large amounts of recycling placed curbside in unsecured containers can be seen blowing around neighborhoods and onto neighbor's properties. The recycling collector is not permitted to enter private property to collect these items, leaving your neighbors in the unfair position of cleaning up someone else's recyclables. Please be a good neighbor and place recyclables in a secured recycling bin. The Township provides every residence with a recycling container at no charge. We encourage as much recycling as your household can generate. Additional recycling containers and recycling stickers are also provided at no charge for residents who recycle more than one container can hold. Recycling stickers can be placed on any container of your choice, with a 30-pound limit per container. If you need an additional recycling container, a lid for a round Amity Township recycling bin or recycling stickers, stop by the municipal building.

Did you know pizza boxes are not part of the Township's recycling program? Pizza grease contaminates the cardboard, making them a contaminated material. If this surprised you, or if you'd like to know more about what is recyclable under the Township's recycling program call Kathie Benson at 610-953-0016. Free recycling brochures are also available.

### **Berks County Solid Waste Authority Recycling**

- Annual Hazardous Household Waste Collection – April 17th from 8am to 2pm  
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, 600 Governor Drive, Shillington  
**Online registration with Berks SWA is required.** Access the registration link via Berks SWA website <https://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/swa> or call 610-478-6362.
- Electronic Recycling Center – Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8am to noon  
1316 Hilltop Rd, Leesport
- Tire Recycling Center – Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8am to noon  
1316 Hilltop Rd, Leesport \*Fees apply for tire recycling, per Berks County 2021 Fee Schedule

Berks SWA offers recycling to Berks County residents.

Please see their COVID-19 protocols before going to the recycling centers.

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## YARD WASTE/STREET SWEEPING

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 5th. Street sweeping will begin the first week in April. Yard waste will be collected from April 12th until April 16th. 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.

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## SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

The Reading/Berks YMCA will be providing a summer playground program for Amity Township. Precautionary measures in compliance with CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines will be in place to keep camp counselors and attendees safe. The 8-week program will be held primarily at Amity Community Park, with inclement weather activities being held at Daniel Boone Middle School, pending release of COVID-19 restrictions. More information about this program will be made available on the Township website and Facebook as it becomes available.



## 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. 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/summer of 2021. The pavilion has electric and eight picnic tables. Mens and womens restrooms at the park operate on timers. Adventurous guests can also enjoy the skateboard equipment at the park.

Applications for rental of pavilions can be found on the Township website at [www.amitytownshippa.com](http://www.amitytownshippa.com). Dates fill up quickly, so plan accordingly! If you should have any questions regarding rentals or availability, please call Pam Kisch at 610-953-0017.

## MONOCACY HILL

All of us at Monocacy Hill Conservation Association (MHCA) hope that you and your families are healthy and safe. We are all looking forward to the time when activities and facilities will open up once the COVID-19 vaccine is more widely available.

At this time, we have not scheduled any spring activities at the park. We hope to be able to schedule some of our usual spring wildflower walks and fitness hikes. More information will be available when we publish our newsletter in the beginning of April. You can also check updates on our website at [www.monocacyhill.org](http://www.monocacyhill.org) or check out

our Facebook page.

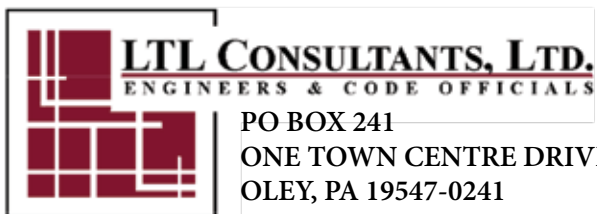
In the meantime, we hope you continue to visit Monocacy Hill for some fresh air and exercise. We encourage everyone to explore the forest on your own. MHCA will try to keep information in the kiosk for park visitors, but that is not always possible. Some resources, such as maps and wildflower sheets can be found on the website.

There is always a need for volunteers to maintain the trails at Monocacy Hill. If you can help, please contact us through our website [info@monocacyhill.org](mailto:info@monocacyhill.org).

MHCA participates in the "Save-A-Tape" program at Redner's Warehouse Markets. If you or someone you know shops at Redner's, you could be helping MHCA keep the park beautiful! Use your rewards card at the register, save your register tapes and drop them at the green box located at the park entrance. MHCA receives a donation of 1% of the total acceptable register tapes submitted.



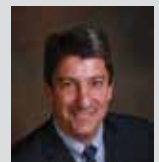
*During the winter, take in the natural beauty of frozen falls at Monocacy Hill.*



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**Phone: 610-987-9290**

**Kozloff Stoudt  
Attorneys**



**Brian F. Boland  
Esquire**

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Wyomissing, PA 19610

[www.kozloffstoudt.com](http://www.kozloffstoudt.com)

610-670-2552  
(fax) 610-670-2591

# The Spring Flowers of Monocacy Hill



**Bloodroot**  
*Sanguinaria canadensis*  
(Papaveraceae)



**Early Saxifrage**  
*Saxifraga virginensis*  
(Saxifraga)



**Rue Anemone**  
*Thalictrum thalictroides*  
(Ranunculaceae)



**Trout Lily**  
*Erythronium americanum*  
(Liliaceae)



**Round Lobed Hepatica**  
*Anemone americana*  
(Ranunculaceae)



**Spring Beauty**  
*Claytonia virginica*  
(Portulacaceae)



**Common Blue Violet**  
*Viola papilionacea*  
(Violaceae)



**Wild Ginger**  
*Asarum canadense*  
(Aristolochiaceae)



**May-apple**  
*Podophyllum peltatum*  
(Berberidaceae)



**Wild Geranium**  
*Geranium maculatum*  
(Geraniaceae)



**Jack-in-the-pulpit**  
*Arisaema triphyllum*  
(Araceae)



**Cut-leaved Toothwort**  
*Dentaria laciniata*  
(Cruciferae)



**Nodding Trillium**  
*Trillium cernuum*  
(Liliaceae)



**Showy Orchis**  
*Galearis spectabilis*  
(Orchidaceae)



**Perfoliate Bellwort**  
*Uvularia perfoliata*  
(Liliaceae)



**Columbine**  
*Aquilegia canadensis*  
(Ranunculaceae)



**Pennywort**  
*Obolaria virginica*  
(Gentianaceae)



**Virginia Bluebell**  
*Mertensia virginica*  
(Boraginaceae)



**Solomon's Seal**  
*Polygonatum biflorum*  
(Liliaceae)



**False or Plumed Solomon's Seal**  
*Maianthemum racemosum*  
(Liliaceae)

- Family**
- Arum
  - Lily
  - Poppy
  - Iris
  - Orchid
  - Purslane
  - Forget-me-not
  - Saxifrage
  - Gentian
  - Mustard
  - Buttercup
  - Violet
  - Geranium
  - Birthwort
  - Barberry



## TAX COLLECTOR

Dean Fronheiser is the elected Amity Township Tax Collector. Due to COVID-19 precautions, there will be no sitting hours for 2021. Taxpayers can reach Dean by calling 610-689-9227. Payments can be placed in the Township drop box or mailed to the PO BOX listed on the tax bills.

**REAL ESTATE TAXES REMAIN AT 2019's RATE:** Even though revenues remain flat and are projected to be affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Amity Township Board of Supervisors agreed to keep the 2021 real estate tax at the 2019 and 2020 levels. While we need to plan for annual increases in the cost of operating the Township (providing police services, road maintenance, mowing, plowing, stormwater management, recycling, code enforcement, administration and recreation), there are no significant additions to the 2021 budget. We are continually monitoring this situation in order to provide the services our residents have come to expect and appreciate.



## HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Robin Wade



Pictured Left to Right: Patrick Moore, Robin Wade, Mike Thompson, Brian Haas, Tyler Neiswender and Mike Zomolsky

After 40 years of service, Robin (Rob) Wade retired from Amity Township's Road Department. Rob was employed by Amity Township, working at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Road Department. Best of luck, Rob. You will be missed!

**NEED EXTRA MONEY?  
CRIME TIPS EQUAL CASH.**

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clertberks.org

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Saturday, April 3 & Saturday, May 1  
10:00am-2:00pm **DOOR PRIZES!**

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cell 610 212 6373  
n.lee@securitiesmail.com

## REMAINING PROGRESSIVE

Amity Township phones have gone to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). After analyzing phone bills and services, Township staff was able to upgrade to newer technology, while decreasing monthly costs for communications.

There are some slight changes you may have noticed. While you can still call 610-689-6000 for the administration office, you now must dial the # sign before entering the person's extension. If you don't know your party's extension, listen to the options given. Pushing a single button will direct you to the correct person.

You can still call 610-689-6002 for the non-emergency police line. If you want to speak to an on-duty Police Officer, press 1 and your call will be directed to the Berks County 9-1-1 non-emergency dispatch line. The dispatcher will then contact an Officer on duty to have them return your call. If you need copies of police reports or need to speak to the Police Secretary, press 7.

You can still call 610-385-3400 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant, listen to the options and make the appropriate selection. After hours sewer emergency calls get transferred to the 9-1-1 non-emergency line. A dispatcher will have someone return your call.

You will notice there is now music when your call is being directed or placed on hold. While this music may not make you want to get up and dance, it's light, upbeat and we hope you find it better than hearing silence while waiting for someone to answer your call.

Township employees now have direct dial numbers. These direct dial numbers bypass the auto attendant and ring at the employee's desk. You may begin seeing 610-953 phone numbers listed on our website, Facebook and newsletters. This is considered an area code/exchange for Reading, PA. This means, if your local calling area includes Reading, you can call these numbers at no charge.

The Township is also looking to "go green" by changing from a printed newsletter that residents receive three times per year, to a more frequent, easily accessible digital newsletter. Our goal is simple. We want to get important information to you more quickly and efficiently. Saving trees is a bonus! Stay tuned for additional information on our website and Facebook page.



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## AMITY TOWNSHIP SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAM

Tennis anyone? As the weather turns warmer and you find yourself wanting to spend more time outdoors, think tennis. USTA Coach Kim Cubero will begin holding the Township's summer tennis program beginning in June and running through July. Class sizes will be limited to ensure safety of all players and coaches, and comply with CDC and PA Department of Health COVID-19 regulations. More information will be forthcoming on the Township website and Facebook page as it becomes available. If you'd like additional information, you may also contact Coach Cubero at 610-301-7609 or by email at [Totaltennis1@gmail.com](mailto:Totaltennis1@gmail.com).

If you like tennis, maybe you'd also like pickleball. Pickleball is a paddleball sport for 2 to 4 players that combines elements of badminton, table tennis and tennis. The Township began seeing an interest in the past few year and had pickleball lines painted on courts at Amity Community Park. Currently, there is no organized pickleball for the Township. If this is something you'd be interested in, please call or send an email to Coach Cubero.





## SPOTTED LANTERNFLY MYTHS

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) will be hatching soon, ruining outdoor gatherings all over Pennsylvania. The first reported SLF discovery was in Berks County, 2014. The SLF has a broad host range including fruit, ornamental and woody plants and is a threat to the state's agriculture and forestry industries.

As the Spotted Lanternfly extension associate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, Heather Leach often receives calls and emails from concerned citizens about the insect interloper.

Occasionally, she will hear stories or "myths" from them about management or the biology of the pest, an invasive planthopper that feeds on more than 70 species of plants, including agricultural and hardwood commodities.

"People who are dealing with Spotted Lanternfly are frustrated and worried," Leach said. "In their search for answers, they sometimes are willing to believe or try anything. But it's never a good idea to take questionable information at face value."

While most falsehoods are innocuous, some have the potential to cause harm to the environment, animals and even humans. Below are a few garden-variety myths about the spotted lanternfly from Leach and her colleagues.

### **Pressure washing destroys Spotted Lanternfly eggs**

While pressure washing might physically remove egg masses from surfaces, there is no evidence that it kills eggs. Additionally, high-pressure sprays can cause permanent damage to trees and other living plants.

The most effective way to destroy egg masses is to scrape them off using a plastic card or putty knife. Then, place the masses into a bag or container with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer, which can be disposed of in the trash. They also can be smashed or burned.

### **Milkweed is toxic to Spotted Lanternfly**

According to Penn State Extension educators, milkweed leaves contain cardiac glycosides. These compounds affect heart function, making them toxic to most species of birds and mammals. However, there is no science currently showing that it is poisonous to the SLF, Leach said.

On a positive note, milkweed is the sole host plant of the Monarch Butterfly. By planting milkweed species native to their region, property owners can support this important pollinator. But they should not expect to milk any benefit related to the Spotted Lanternfly.

### **The Spotted Lanternfly needs tree of heaven to reproduce**

It does not, according to Kelli Hoover, professor of entomology, whose lab researched the insect's reproduction cycle. She said while *Ailanthus Altissima*, a noxious and invasive weed tree commonly known as Tree of Heaven, is the pest's preferred host, Spotted Lanternfly can produce offspring without it.

"We reared Spotted Lanternflies from egg to adult — and they reproduced — without ever having access to tree of heaven," said Hoover, adding that the specimens were fed a diet of planted Silver Maple, Willow and River Birch Trees in a controlled outdoor setting.

Interestingly, development from egg to adult was slightly faster when Spotted Lanternflies were given Tree of Heaven, suggesting that it is a good host for them. Because the Tree of Heaven is attractive to the SLF, Hoover recommends removing it, if affordable and feasible.

### **Homemade sprays are safe and effective**

Folks may be tempted to use home remedies that include household items such as dish soap, glass cleaner, vinegar, salt, garlic and chili/cayenne peppers.

These suggestions may have the potential to harm humans, pets and plants, do not come with precise directions, may not be effective, and their use can violate the law, noted Emelie Swackhamer, a horticulture extension educator based in Montgomery County, one of 26 counties in the current Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone.

She encourages non-chemical control methods such as destroying egg masses, swatting the insects with fly swatters, trapping them and eliminating the Tree of Heaven. For homeowners who choose chemical control, she recommends they use a registered insecticide and research the pros and cons. It is good idea to use least toxic options first, including organic or natural-based insecticides such as neem oil or insecticidal soaps.

"People who want to kill Spotted Lanternflies effectively and safely with insecticides must follow directions carefully," said Swackhamer. "Every situation is different; no one method will work for everyone. Remember, all insecticides present safety risks, so people must use caution with these products."

### **Spotted Lanternflies are luminescent**

The origin of this fallacy most likely lies in the pest's name, according to Julie Urban, associate research professor in the Department of Entomology.

"'Lanternfly' is a name that refers to the insect family 'Fulgoridae,' to which the Spotted Lanternfly and more than 500 other insect species belong," she said. "These insects often possess unusual physical features, including an extension or enlargement of the head, as in the case of Spotted Lanternfly."

At one time, scientists hypothesized these insects' enlarged domes housed bioluminescent bacteria that could make them glow. This led to the insect family being named for "Fulgora," the Roman goddess of lightning.

While the Spotted Lanternfly possesses powers such as feasting on plants, depositing sticky honeydew and taking up residence anywhere, the ability to glow — or to fly well, for that matter — is not among them.

For the latest science-based information about the Spotted Lanternfly, go to the Penn State Extension website <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly> or call 888-4BAD-FLY (888-422-3359).

Article provided by the Penn State Extension, January 22, 2021



## PHASE 2 - SOLIDS HANDLING PROJECT

The construction of Phase 2 of our solids handling project has begun. During this project, the Township will be upgrading the aerobic digester air diffuse system by adding new blowers and diffusers to both of our aerobic digesters, along with dissolved oxygen probes that will monitor and control the amount of air being added to the digesters. Covers are being installed over each digester to help maintain temperature control. This new equipment will help by providing better solids settling and dewatering. Once complete, a higher concentration of solids can be removed, which ultimately reduces the overall cost in sludge disposal.

During this phase we are also replacing the existing emergency plant generator, which is used to supply power to the treatment plant during power outages. The existing generator can only supply a small portion of the treatment plant with power due to it's size. The new, much larger generator gives us the ability to operate the entire treatment plant process during power outages.

This was an extensive project to upgrade the Township's aging collection and treatment system. The electrical portion of the project cost \$363,600.00 and the general/mechanical portion of the project cost \$1,117,840.00.

Dave Wheeler, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent and the Township staff work diligently to keep operating costs as low as possible, in an effort to avoid increasing sewer rates. However, with the total cost of this project coming in at just under \$1.5M, the Board of Supervisors found it necessary to increase quarterly sewer payments to \$125.00/quarter. The sewer rate increase took effect in January 2021. Additional upgrades are planned for our aging plant.

Pictures below depict construction prior to project completion.



*New sign installed in 2020, built by Lucky Squirrel.*



*Framework for new generator pad*



*Conduit bank for new air blower system*



*Conduit bank for generator transfer switch*



*Concrete base for new aerobic air system*



*New 500 KW plant generator*





The Amity Township Police Department would like to thank this wonderful young lady, Mackenzie Bezner. Mackenzie took the time to make and deliver holiday cards for all Law Enforcement Officers in Berks County. This past weekend Mackenzie delivered her holiday cards to the Amity Township Police Department.

Amity Police Officers greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness and generosity.

The cards brought a little more cheer to all of our holidays!

Left, Officer Fernando Santiago poses with Mackenzie and her homemade card.

Amity Police have had many local businesses and residents reach out during the pandemic. For that we thank all of you!

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## Why so hairy?

Amity Township Police Department participated in their first annual **NO SHAVE NOVEMBER** of 2020. The officers enjoyed participating so much they extended the event through December!

Amity Township Police raised a total of \$500.00, which was donated to the Ricky Cooper Fund. The fund was established by Richard and Phyllis Cooper of Limekiln Road, who sadly lost their son Ricky to Pediatric Cancer over 20 years ago. The Coopers established the fund in honor of their son's memory and have fundraised for him ever since.



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## EARTH DAY RECYCLING COLLECTION

Make Mother Nature happy and make the community a cleaner place to live by recycling automotive waste. Residents are encouraged to bring their automotive-related recyclables such as waste oil, antifreeze, automotive lead batteries, and tires (limit 4) to Chuck's Auto Salvage for their 12th Annual Earth Day Recycling Celebration on Saturday, April 24th from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Chuck's will accept these items at no charge during these hours. Please note: Gasoline will not be accepted. Bring the entire family along to educate children about automotive recycling and register for door prizes. If your community group would like to learn more about automotive recycling, call Dee Leech at 484-925-1099, extension 109 to schedule a tour.

Most people recycle plastics and glass but what about the items that don't go in the recycling container? It's important to dispose of all automotive solid and liquid waste properly. Chuck's Earth Day events have included over 500 households, brought in 1,359 gallons of waste oil and 1,397 tires along with other fluids and scrap metal. By recycling these pollutants, you'll help keep them from ending up in the ground, streams and landfills.

For every lead battery collected during this year's event, Chuck's Auto Salvage will donate \$20.00 to a local charity and provide each Earth Day supporter a \$10.00 coupon towards your next purchase.

The automotive dismantling industry is one of the original recyclers. Chuck's Auto Salvage, celebrating 49 years as a family-owned, third generation company, operating in Amity Township, has prided itself on being environmentally conscious. Chuck's recycles all fluids including oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, washer fluid and freon during their indoor dismantling process. Lead batteries, tires and other automotive materials are also recycled.

Customers benefit from the millions of dollars in savings achieved from buying and using **Green Recycled Parts™**. A **Green Recycled Part** is a part that is good for your vehicle, because it matches the original manufacturer's specifications, fit and performance. It is tested and guaranteed to strict guidelines. It is good for your wallet because it saves, on average, approximately half the cost of new parts. And most importantly, it is good for the Earth because it preserves natural resources and reduces air and water pollution. Each year, recycled parts save an estimated 80 million barrels of oil required to produce new replacement parts.

# Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

## Safety Tips

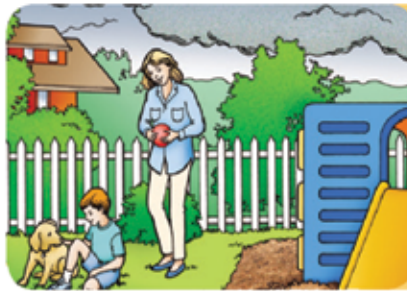
## Outdoor Safety

- » If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- » Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- » Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- » Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- » There is no safe place outside. Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- » If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1. Get medical help right away.

## Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You can use a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.



## FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269



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Spring 2021  
Volume XXI, Issue I

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