

Welcome to

SUMMER 2021
Volume XXI, Issue II



AMITY TOWNSHIP

Berks County, Pennsylvania



AMITY TOWNSHIP HARVEST FESTIVAL

Board of Supervisors

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Township Hours

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

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It may be too warm to think about October, but it's coming; and so is our 2021 Harvest Festival! Amity Township, the Blazer Education Foundation and the Daniel Boone Optimist Club have joined forces to host a 3-day event from October 8th through October 10th at Amity Community Park.

Harvest Festival begins on Friday, October 8th from 5-9PM with carnival rides, food trucks, live music, silent auction and a Homebrew Beer Tasting by Libations for Learning. Saturday keeps the celebration going beginning at noon with carnival rides, food trucks, live music by Stephanie Grace, silent auction, a Craft Beer Festival by Libations for Learning and fireworks at dark. Sunday is another full day of celebrating with carnival rides, food trucks and live music by Flaming Dick & the Hot Rods. The weekend will wind down with a bonfire at dark on Sunday.

Daniel Boone Optimist Club will host their Craft Show both Saturday from 10AM to 4PM and Sunday from 11AM to 4PM.

The 2021 Harvest Festival is sure to have something for everyone! Watch Amity Township 360, Blazer Education Foundation and Daniel Boone Optimist Facebook pages for the most up-to-date information.

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Please contact Vicki Swain at vswain@dayspringhomes.org or call 610.376.5648 ext 228 or with any questions.



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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.

THE THREE P'S

What you need to know about WHAT you should be flushing.

Wastewater treatment is designed to treat and remove “solids”, ammonia, and phosphorous. These contaminants are associated with typical household waste: things like bodily wastes, showers, dishwashing, laundry, etc.

“Solids” include feces, which contain phosphorous. The other human waste is urine. While mostly water, urine also contains phosphorus and urea. Urea is composed of ammonia and carbon dioxide. High amounts of both ammonia and phosphorus are considered harmful to aquatic life and are removed during the wastewater treatment process.

The only things that we should be flushing are Pee, Poop, and toilet Paper, referred to collectively as “*The Three P's*”.

Dispose of your other waste properly. NEVER flush these:

Unused/expired pharmaceuticals - These can be dropped off at the Township building, Monday through Friday 8AM until 4:30PM.

Hazardous chemicals such as industrial cleaners/sanitizers, paint, gasoline, and pesticides - These need to be properly stored until they can be dropped off at a Household Hazardous Waste collection site. Berks County Solid Waste Authority has held events twice annually, usually in April and October of each year. The upcoming event will be held on October 23rd at the Berks County Agricultural Center at 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport from 8AM until 2PM, rain or shine.

Latex gloves, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, bandages, hair, and condoms - Should all go in the garbage and not down the drain!

What happens when you flush things other than the Three P's? The first issue is they can get caught in your household plumbing. It may not happen immediately, but over time flushed items can accumulate and begin “catching” debris and solids that will eventually get caught up on this item, blocking the pipe and causing sewage to back up into your home. If the items manage to clear your household piping, then it would make its way to the municipal sewer system at a pump station nearby or possibly to the wastewater treatment plant, where the exact same situation could happen — only this time the sewage would back up out of a manhole and into the environment and neighboring properties. When these chemicals and items arrive at the wastewater treatment plant, they have the potential to clog one of the pumps or interfere with the treatment process. This could affect the plant's ability to pump sewage and maintain the treatment process, and could require staff to take the pump apart to remove the blockage, or take remediation steps to reverse chemical reactions.

Think before you flush. Are you cleaning and sanitizing with new cleaners and chemicals because of COVID-19? Please be aware what you are using may not be flushable! Recently, Amity Township experienced an imbalance in the oxidation ditch, equipment that uses good bacteria in the process to break down solids and treat liquid sludge. The culprit was believed to be an ammonia-based chemical that in small amounts can kill good bacteria, crippling the treatment process.

Plain and simply stated, flushing items other than the Three P's can potentially be expensive to you, your neighbors, and to all public sewer ratepayers, depending on where these items clog the sanitary sewer infrastructure. Costs to remediate issues at the Waste Water Treatment Plant are ultimately passed along to public sewer customers. Please do your part by thinking before you flush anything other than the Three P's.

TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE

Many residents whose properties border Township Open Space have done an impeccable job keeping their back yards leading into the wooded spaces beautifully manicured and trimmed. For this, the Supervisors thank you! Property owners who may have installed sheds, garages, playsets, or planted gardens or other items within Township Open Space have done so at their own risk. The Township is not liable for damages that occur to any structure or personal belongings that have been placed in Township Open Space.

Property owners who have concerns about dead trees potentially falling from Open Space onto their homes or other structures should contact Patrick Moore by calling 610-953-0018 or email roadmaster@amitytownship.com.

PERMITS

It is the intent of the Amity Township Board of Supervisors to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Township and to conform to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act and the regulations of the Act promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

On June 29, 2004 Amity Township elected to administer and enforce the provision of the Pennsylvania Construction Code and the Uniform Construction Code 35 P.S. 7210.101-7210.1103 as amended.

Ordinance #309 adopted the UCC and amended some provisions and requirements as to work that requires a building permit. This table provides a brief summary of what types of improvements, alterations and repairs require a permit, per Amity Township Ordinances.

Zoning Permit Required	Building Permit Required	NO Permit Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Roof replacement - residential * Siding replacement - residential * 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 and countertops * Resurfacing or sealing driveway * Replacing a furnace with the same size and same type * Invisible dog fences * Fish ponds * Window replacement of same size

When applying for any permit, please select the electronic application from our website that best suits your proposed improvement. We will issue the appropriate permit(s). Electronic applications can be found at www.amitytownshippa.com under Department>Codes>Permits. Paper applications are also available in our lobby at the Township building.

- No U&O inspections are currently required for the resale of a residential property.**
- For Solicitation Permits, please contact Amity Police at 610-689-6002 and press 7.**
- For pavilion rentals and field use permits, please contact Pam Kisch at 610-953-0017.**



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FIREWORKS

For many of us, fireworks are part of our holiday celebrations. Before using fireworks, make sure you know the laws and regulations in our community. The information below was prepared by the Township's Code Official. After reading the same, should have you have any concerns, please contact the Police Department at 610-655-4911 – of course, if it is a serious matter, call 9-1-1.

All fireworks licensing is administered and enforced by the Pa Dept. of Agriculture and are generally categorized into 3 types:

Novelty - the small, basic stuff that has always been allowed

Consumer - the bigger, louder ones that can go up in the air

Display - the big ones you see at fairs, fire companies and large events

The standard Novelty Fireworks and only the following Consumer Fireworks can be sold at the temporary fireworks tents all over the State: helicopter, aerial spinners, roman candles, mine and shell devices (not exceeding 500 grams).

All Consumer fireworks can be purchased at permanent licensed facilities in the State. Examples of these are: sparklers, cylindrical fountains, cone fountains, illuminating torches, wheels, ground spinners, flitter sparklers, toy smoke devices, wire sparkler/dipped sticks, aerial devices such as: sky rockets, bottle rockets, missile-type rockets, helicopter, aerial spinners, roman candles, mine and shell devices, aerial shell kits.

Regulations for the Use of consumer fireworks are as follows:

- A person who is at least 18 years of age may purchase, possess and use consumer fireworks.
- A person may not intentionally ignite or discharge Consumer fireworks:
 - on public or private property without the express permission of the owner.
 - within, or throw consumer fireworks or sparkling devices from, a motor vehicle or building
 - into or at a motor vehicle or building or at another person.
 - while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or any other drug
 - within 150-feet of an occupied structure

Temporary fireworks tents may only sell fireworks between June 15 – July 8 and Dec 21 – Jan 2 of each year.

NOTE: Display Fireworks are not permitted to be sold or used in PA without proper licensing from the PA Dept. of Agriculture.

Any violation of the laws, whether selling or using illegal fireworks, is enforced by the PA Dept. of Agriculture.

Pa State Police and Amity Township Police have the right to confiscate fireworks should a violation of the law be found. Additional information regarding the new laws can be found at https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business_Industry/fireworks/Pages/default.aspx.

Remember, four-legged friends are not big fans of fireworks! If you're planning a celebration with legal fireworks, please consider notifying your neighbors who have pets so they can make arrangements to ensure everyone enjoys the holiday.



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AMERICA250PA

On June 16, 2021, Amity Township made history again, becoming the “first in Berks” by adopting Resolution 2021-16, endorsing and adopting America250PA’s four pillars of EPIC, the mission to educate, preserve, innovate and celebrate EVERY Pennsylvanian in EVERY county.

Chairperson Kim McGrath announced she was participating in the PA Commission for the United States Semi-quincentennial (America250PA). America250PA was formed in 2018 by Pennsylvania legislators and the Governor to plan and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation’s past, present and future.

America250PA hopes to engage ALL Pennsylvanians and ALL 67 Pennsylvania counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the next five years by inspiring future leaders and celebrating all Pennsylvanians’ contributions to the nation over the past 250 years.

Wondering how you can get involved? Follow America250PA on social media, submit ideas and sign up for the America250PA newsletter at WWW.AMERICA250PA.ORG/joinus.

Help make 2026 **E.P.I.C.**

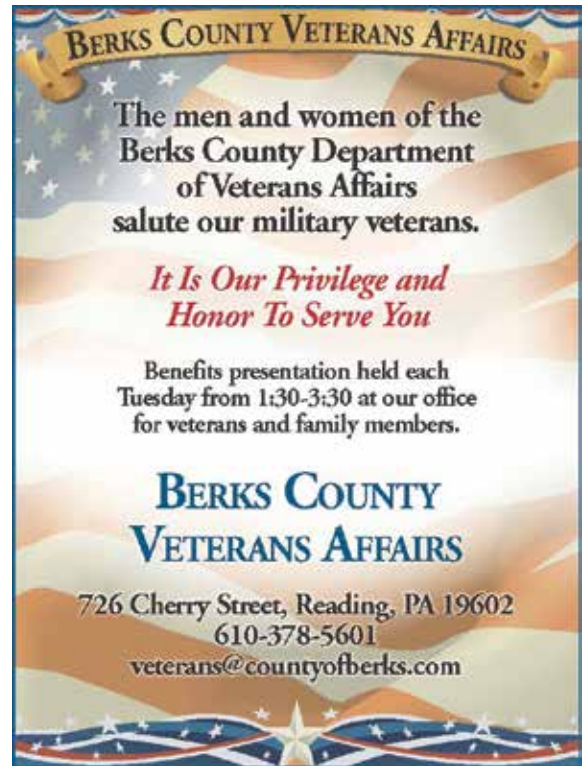
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AMERICAN FLAG RETIREMENT SITE

Tattered, worn and faded flags that are no longer suitable for flying should be retired with due respect. Residents can deposit their old flags in the blue flag drop-off box located at the Township building. Boy Scout Troop #597 placed the box at the Township building to ensure old flags are retired properly. After flags are collected, they are burned in a retirement ceremony during special events such as camping trips and at summer camp. At times, weather prevents the ceremony from taking place.

Two years ago, when Boy Scout Michael Barnett visited the Iwo Jima Memorial at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, TX with his grandmother he saw a fire pit in the middle of a brick paved area designed to hold flag retirement ceremonies and decided he would like to do something similar in his community for his Eagle Scout Project.

Fast forward to April 2021, Michael prepared and presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Amity Township Parks and Recreation Board and the Board of Supervisors. The Board granted approval to proceed with the project at Hill Road Park. Michael’s project will include installing a brick paver patio, fire pit, three stone benches an American Flag, flagpole and solar light kit. The new site will allow the scouts to schedule flag retirement ceremonies in advance and invite local first responders, community leaders and local news media to help educate the public about the proper way to retire the American Flag. The flag retirement site also provides a place where older scouts can pass along the knowledge and tradition of proper flag retirement procedures to younger scouts.

Donations from Monarch Fire Company, American Legion Post 878 in Oley, American Legion Post 626 in Birdsboro and a donation in memory of John Cole, USAF, Vietnam War helped finance the project. Sweetwater 100 gave Michael a discounted rate on the pavers and donated the fire pit. Astro Fence donated the flagpole. Monetary and material donations totaled \$4,000.00, almost the entire cost of the project!

Thank you to Michael and his team of scouts who will provide the labor for this project. Michael’s project is scheduled for completion in August.



Michael Barnett at the Marine Military Academy in front of the Eagle Scout Project completed by Scout Robert Walter III.



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DEVELOPING YOUR CAREER PLAN?

THE YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM AT THE PA CAREERLINK OF BERKS
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- Participants will work with a case manager to develop an in-depth career plan.
- Paid Work Experience: a program in which participants can earn between \$9-12 an hour working up to 30 hours a week at a variety of worksites. Placements are treated like a paid internship.
- Participants can participate in multiple rounds of Paid Work Experience. Some participants may even get hired at their work site.

High School Equivalency Program

- Class is currently held online Monday through Thursday at 10 AM and 2 PM.
- Cost of books, testing and other fees are all paid for by the program.
- Average length of time it takes to obtain your High School Equivalency Diploma is between 2-3 months.
- Stipends are awarded to students with good attendance.
- Tutoring sessions can be scheduled after class in the afternoons.
- Paid Work Experience is also offered to High School Equivalency Class participants.

HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED IN EITHER PROGRAM?

STEP #1 - EMAIL info@bcccl.org TO BE SIGNED UP FOR A REMOTE WELCOME ORIENTATION SESSION. AFTER COMPLETION, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT TEAM.

STEP #2 - ATTEND THE ONLINE TWO-WEEK YOUNG ADULT ORIENTATION. BEGINS THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.

**Attendance at this workshop is mandatory for anyone looking to join the program. It consists of speakers, job readiness workshops, testing, resume and interview prep, etc.*



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MONOCACY HILL

Location Markers

Did you know location markers were installed along the walking trails at Monocacy Hill? They are located approximately every half mile. Each location marker is tied to GPS coordinates to pinpoint the exact location on a map, which aids emergency responders to find people who may need medical assistance while hiking or biking the trails. As you enjoy all the Hill has to offer, don't forget to take notice of these marker numbers. If you become injured or lost, please call 9-1-1 and give them the number of the nearest location marker. Be safe and remember the park closes at dark.

Honoring Sallie Shirey's Homestead

If you were raised in this area, you may have heard the name Sallie Shirey. Sallie Shirey (Sarah Harner) was born near Monocacy Hill in 1812, never lived further than two miles from her birthplace and raised a family of twelve children. When her husband died in 1861, Sallie moved back to Monocacy Hill with her children and built a homestead and farm on a 30-acre parcel. Sallie lived a long life and became a legend, some called the "incomparable" Widow Shirey, best known for the large parties she hosted at her home where she would tell guests the stories of her life and sing songs. Sallie passed away in 1910, at the age of 98.

Amity Township acquired Monocacy Hill in 1968. By that time, Sallie's "homestead" was in ruins. Boy Scout Shawn Selbst, Troop #597, approached the Parks and Recreation Board and Township Supervisors with an Eagle Scout Project to honor the memory of Sallie Shirey and help educate residents about the Sallie Shirey homestead. The project will include researching, planning and writing the text for a sign that will be placed along the Stonewall Trail near the site of Sallie's house. The sign will tell the story of Sallie Shirey, the "grandmother of Amity" and her family, with information about what life was like back in the 1800's. The trail will be cleared, and a bench placed nearby for visitors to stop and enjoy a little local history.

Financing for Shawn's Eagle Scout Project was provided by the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association, using donations and fundraising dollars. Redner's Warehouse Markets Save-A-Tape Program provides 1% of the total acceptable register tapes submitted through the Save-A-Tape Program. Shoppers receive gas points for using their card and MHCA receives a 1% donation when shoppers take their whole receipts to the collection box at Monocacy Hill. Kimberton Whole Foods ran a "Rounding Up" Program in April this year, and matched customers' donations for a total donation of \$4,000.00 for MHCA. Thank you to all of the local businesses and all shoppers who helped support the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association. Thank you to Shawn Selbst and his team of scouts for restoring some history to our community and honoring the legacy of Sallie Shirey's homestead.

This Project is scheduled for completion by September.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

October 23, 2021 - 8AM to 2PM (Rain or Shine)

Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pa. 19533

Free to Berks County Residents - Registration Required!

Register at www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/swa or call Jane Meeks 610-478-6362.

This is a drive-thru event. Please have waste in your trunk or bed of your truck. Wear your mask and remain in your vehicle at all times. Come alone and do not bring people to the event.

Commercial Waste and Latex Paint are NOT accepted at this event.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS include: Turpentine, wood preservatives, paint thinners and solvents, oil-based paints, varnishes and stains, weed killers, pesticides, asphalt and driveway sealants, pool chemicals, herbicides and fungicides, anti-freeze, gasoline, transmission oil, motor oil, automotive paints and finishes, household solvents, disinfectants, rug, oven and drain cleaners, button batteries, photographic chemicals, floor and furniture polish, lithium and NiCad batteries and fluorescent bulbs.

DO NOT BRING THE FOLLOWING: latex paint, joint and caulking compound, organic peroxides, gas cylinders, explosives and ammunition, radioactive waste, infectious or medical waste or water-based sealants.

WHERE DOES MY TAX DOLLAR GO?

2021/22 Real Estate Tax



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY'S EFFECT ON PA HONEY

It's that time again! Spotted Lanternfly are invading backyards throughout the Township and state. It has been 7 years since Amity was placed in quarantine and researchers are still learning from this invasive pest. SLF have been observed feasting on the sap for more than 70 different species of trees. After feasting on the sap, the SLF excretes a substance called honeydew, leaving a sticky, wet mess on trees. In areas of high infestation, the excretion process can sound like rain falling. This honeydew turns into sooty mold, and can create large gaping holes in trees, killing them. One measure of controlling the SLF population, is to remove Ailanthus Trees (Tree of Heaven) and leave approximately 10% of male Ailanthus to be used as "trap trees" which are injected or sprayed with pesticides. When Spotted Lanternfly suck the sap out of the trap trees, they ingest the poison killing them.

In 2019, a Philadelphia beekeeper noticed something new when entering a honey house. The harvested honey was thicker than normal with a deep reddish-brown color and an unfamiliar smoky maple bacon aroma. Many beekeepers in Southeastern PA were experiencing the same thing; darker, smoky flavored honey. Experienced beekeepers know the flavor of honey can vary slightly as a result of changes in the temperature, weather conditions and food sources of the honeybees. Since there were no new plant sources in the environment, curious beekeepers wondered if the Spotted Lanternflies could be responsible and sent samples of their honey to Penn State University to determine whether the honey was safe to eat.

Robyn Underwood, Penn State University assistant research professor, is a specialist in apiculture and had previously been studying the effects of these pesticides and the possible effects it may have to bees and their honey. In her 2017 studies, Underwood found that small amounts of pesticide were present in the honeydew excreted by SLF. Underwood observed honeybees feeding on honeydew coated test trees during those studies; however, testing revealed no presence of toxins in the honey, wax or the worker bees' hives located near the test trees. Testing did, however, reveal the presence of ailanthone, a bitter chemical produced by the Tree of Heaven to inhibit the growth of surrounding plants. Ailanthone's bitter taste is also a deterrent to many predators of the Tree of Heaven, unfortunately it doesn't seem to bother the SLF. Further research detected the DNA of Spotted Lanternfly in the honey. Experts believe 2019 and 2020 honey could be different because honeybees tend to eat the most readily accessible food source. In late summer, many plants stop blooming and SLF are busy excreting honeydew. That may be one of the reasons the honeybees seemed to choose the "easy meal" of SLF honeydew. The smoky flavor could potentially be attributed to the expression of the chemical ailanthone which was ingested as Spotted Lanternfly ate from the Tree of Heaven, excreted into the honeydew and was ultimately eaten by the honeybees. Deemed safe for human consumption, the darker, thicker, smoky honey may not be for everyone, but it can be found for sale in some areas. Could honeybees be feasting on honeydew and taking it back to their hives resulting in a new flavor of honey? Researchers continue to observe the SLF and their effects on local honey. One thing we are certain of is that the SLF is still a bit of a mystery and may continue keeping researchers very busy for years to come. Another thing we are certain of is that as a community we still need to protect our trees and economy by doing what we can. Yes, that means when you see these adults KILL them before they can lay eggs. Before leaving for a vacation or trip, be sure you are not taking any of these hitchhiking pests with you. And, as fall nears and adults lay eggs, look for them! Scrape, crush, pop or put them in baggies with some rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. Please keep doing what you can to prevent future year's Spotted Lanternfly invasion.



Honeybees feasting on honeydew



NEWSLETTER IN THE NEWS!

Amity Township will be “going green” and producing a digital newsletter in 2022!

As the Secretary in Amity, one of my primary responsibilities is to bring news to our residents as timely as possible. When I began writing the newsletter for Amity Township eight years ago, we used a local printer to print the content of a 6-page newsletter and mail over 7,000 copies of our newsletters to residents and businesses twice annually. I worked with several local businesses to place small ads in the newsletter to defray costs, but this also took valuable space from the articles needed to provide information regarding programs like leaf collection, street sweeping, tax collection and upgrades to our Waste Water Treatment Plant, just to name a few!



In spring of 2017, we began mailing a full-color, 16-page newsletter through Hometown Press, twice annually, at a fraction of what the old newsletter cost to produce and mail. More local businesses began advertising in the newsletter and in May of 2017, Hometown Press began printing and mailing the newsletter at no cost to taxpayers! Finally, in 2018 we began offering a third newsletter annually, still at no cost to our taxpayers. Providing a newsletter at no cost was a direct result of the local businesses who participated in advertising. The Board of Supervisors would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to each and every business who has helped support our newsletter!

Two of the toughest challenges with writing a newsletter are getting information to readers timely and getting the information to the right target audience. Written newsletters take so much time and require significant lead-time to gather information and write articles, format them around advertising and edit multiple proofs from the publisher. Using an EDDM mailing permit helps keep postage prices low and the newsletter free to Amity taxpayers. That permit sends out the mailers to mail routes that contain our residents. Unfortunately, those mail routes also deliver to residents of neighboring municipalities. It may not sound logical, but it is a fact that it is actually more cost effective to mail using EDDM than sending it to each individual property address in Amity. One way to solve both of these issues is to offer a digital newsletter! We can ensure our newsletter is received by our target audience by signing residents up via email; and newsletters can be emailed monthly instead of three times annually.

Our goal is simple. We want to deliver important news timely and efficiently. Once a resident or business is signed up via email, they will receive the monthly newsletter complete with updates on programs and initiatives in the Township, as well as community events. Sign-up links are currently available on our website at www.amitytownship.com and on the Township's Facebook page. An email will also be generated to email contacts we have listed for our public sewer billing system, offering you the link to sign-up.

If there is anything you would like to see featured in the Township newsletter, or something you would like more information about, please contact me directly at 610-953-0017 or email at pkisch@amitytownship.com.

Pam Kisch, Secretary

WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. You can see storm sewer drains at street corners or along low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called storm water runoff.

WHY IS STORM WATER CALLED “GOOD RAIN GONE WRONG”?

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows; or, when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Storm water travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly to lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, or coastal waters. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because storm water does not get treated!

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Pick up pet waste. Wash your car at the car wash. Use chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers properly. Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, cleaning supplies and paint and NEVER put them in the drain. Plant a rain garden. Rain gardens can help absorb some of the storm water before it gets to our storm sewers. Capture storm water in a barrel or container to water plants.



How's My Waterway?

<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>

Informing the conversation about your waters

Use **How's My Waterway** to learn about your water, explore data, and find out what's happening in your community — anywhere, anytime.

How's My Waterway provides the public with an easily accessible and understandable picture of water quality at a community, state, or national scale. Map-centric and mobile-friendly, How's My Waterway works on all different screen sizes ranging from desktop computers and tablets to mobile phones.

What will I find?

Community: Learn about the health of your waters, identified issues, why the issues matter, and what's being done to restore or protect the waters. Find out more about your drinking water. Discover if waters in your community are suitable for swimming or eating fish and if they support aquatic life.

State: Choose a state to find basic facts about a state's waters, summaries of specific water assessments, a statewide survey of water quality where available, and state drinking water metrics.

National: Learn about the quality of water resources across the nation (lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, and coastal areas) and the main challenges to our water resources nationwide. You will also find information about national drinking water quality and national drinking water metrics.



Drinking Water



Eating Fish



Swimming



Aquatic Life

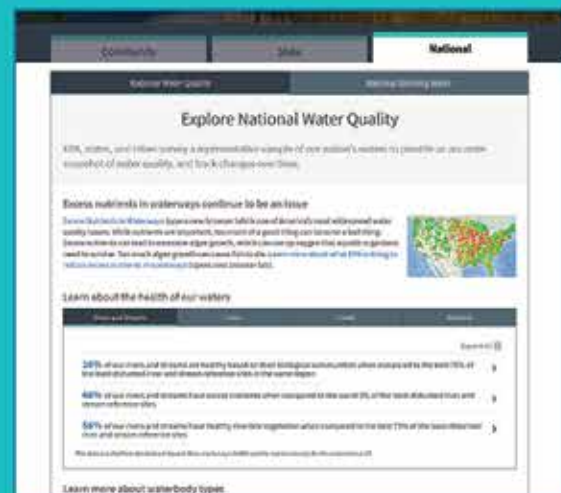
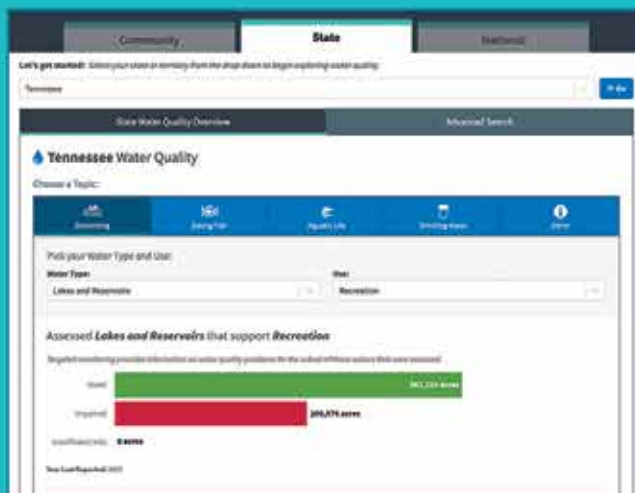
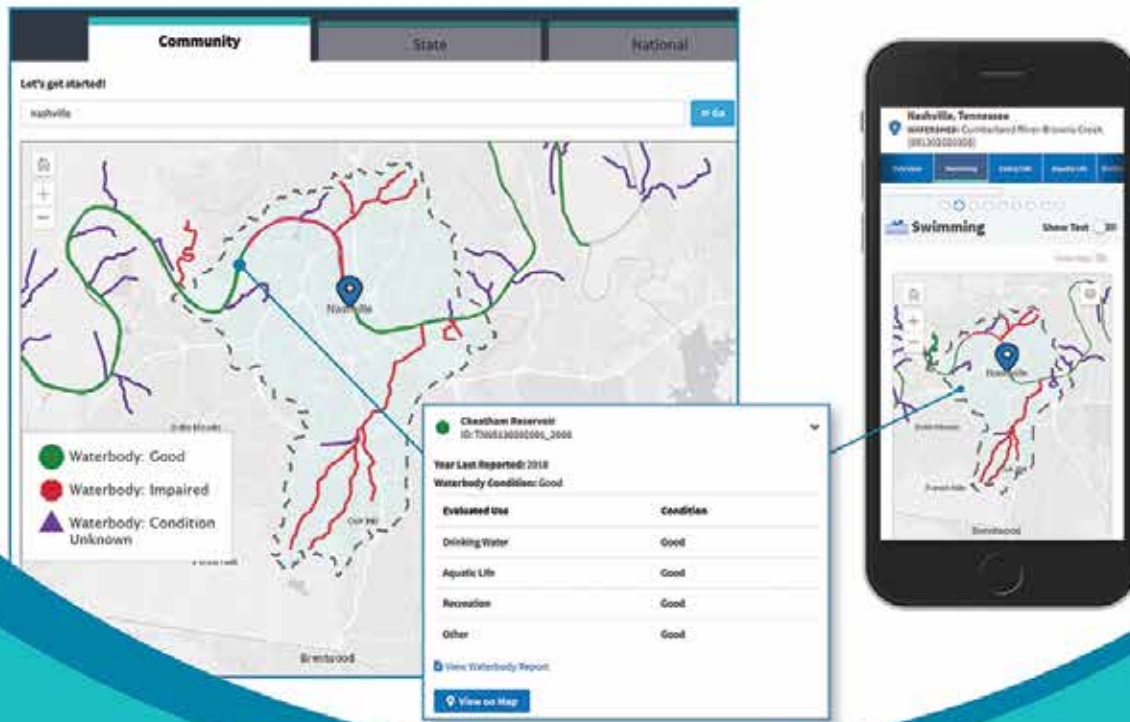
READY TO EXPLORE?

<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>

QUESTIONS?

Contact: mywaterway@epa.gov

With **How's My Waterway** you can explore waters at the community, state, and national levels.



Scan the QR Code using your smartphone's camera app or your preferred search app.



<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>



NEED HELP WITH YOUR ENERGY BILLS?



The Public Utility Commission requires utilities to have programs and protections that help limited-income customers keep their utility service. These programs may help you to pay utility bills or lower the amount of electricity or natural gas you use.

The local electric or natural gas company may call them by different names, but each company has the following programs listed below. Here are some tips to help you stay warm, lower your heating bills, and tell you who to call when you need help.



Budget Billing: All residential customers may contact their electric or natural gas company to request budget billing at any time. This form of billing is based on the customer's past 12 months of energy usage to arrive at a fixed "average" amount to bill each month. The utility company can adjust this average four times a year higher or lower depending on the customer's usage.



Customer Assistance Programs (CAP): This program is set up between the utility company and a limited-income, payment-troubled customer to pay utility bills that are based on household size and gross household income. CAP customers agree to make regular monthly payments, which are usually less than the current bill, in exchange for continued utility service.



Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES): The CARES program will help customers with special needs. Special needs customers are consumers who are experiencing family emergencies, divorce, unemployment, or medical emergencies. The program's goal is to provide support and direction to help customers pay their utility bill.



Low-income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP): LIURP helps limited-income residential customers lower the amount of electricity or natural gas used each month. The utility company may provide free home weatherization. A utility company representative may come to your home to install energy saving features to help reduce your monthly bill.



Here's an overview of our H2O Help to Others™ Program

For more than 25 years, Pennsylvania American Water has been assisting customers who qualify through its H2O Help to Others Program™. The program offers three main services: grants, a discount on the service charge, and water-saving devices and education grants and a discount on the service charge.

WATER SERVICE ASSISTANCE

For more than 25 years, Pennsylvania American Water has been assisting customers who qualify through its H2O Help to Others Program™. The program offers three main services:

- Grants of up to \$500 per year
- An 85 percent discount on the monthly water service charge
- Water-saving devices and education

WASTEWATER SERVICE ASSISTANCE

- Grants of up to \$500 per year
- A 20 percent discount on the total wastewater charges

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Grant Programs

During the 2018-19 program year, Pennsylvania American Water provided \$501,378 in water and wastewater assistance grants to 1,860 households. Grants are funded through a corporate donation (\$450,000 per year) and customer and employee donations. To qualify for a grant, customers must have annual household incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty guidelines (see chart) and applicants must have made a sincere effort to pay their bill.

Discount Programs

To qualify for the water and/or wastewater discount program, customers must have annual incomes at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty guidelines (see chart).

Water-Saving Devices and Education

Customers who qualify for the H2O Help to Others Program™ may also qualify to receive a water saving kit that includes a low-flow shower head, faucet aerators, toilet tank diverter and non-toxic leak-detecting dye tablets. Also included is an educational booklet that explains how to install the devices and provides helpful tips on how to save water inside and outside the home, so customers can take an active part in reducing their water bill through wise water use.

MONTHLY INCOME GUIDELINES

Number of Persons in Household	GRANT PROGRAM Total Combined Monthly Income	DISCOUNT PROGRAM Total Combined Monthly Income
1	\$2,127	\$1,595
2	\$2,873	\$2,155
3	\$3,620	\$2,715
4	\$4,367	\$3,275
5	\$5,113	\$3,835
6	\$5,860	\$4,395
7	\$6,607	\$4,955
8	\$7,353	\$5,515
For each additional person:	\$747	\$560

LEARN MORE ONLINE

- **Pennsylvania American Water:** pennsylvaniaamwater.com
Under Customer Service & Billing, select Customer Assistance Programs.
- **Dollar Energy Fund:** www.dollarenergy.org



Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- ▶▶▶ Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- ▶▶▶ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ▶▶▶ Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- ▶▶▶ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- ▶▶▶ Never leave your grill unattended.
- ▶▶▶ Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- ▶▶▶ There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- ▶▶▶ If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- ▶▶▶ Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- ▶▶▶ There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- ▶▶▶ When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- 1 July is the peak month for grill fires.
- 1 Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



GRILLING STATISTICS from NFPA

10,600 home fires are started by grills each year, on average

July is the peak month for grill fires, followed by June, May, and August

19,700

patients went to the ER per year because of injuries involving grills, including

9,500 thermal burns

64% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill or smoker

Gas grills contribute to a higher number of fires than charcoal grills.

61% of households own a gas grill



nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2019



Sources: NFPA Research, Data & Analytics; Health, Photo and Barcode Association; Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System

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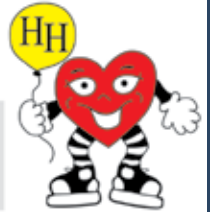
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