



January 2023 - Digital Newsletter

Resale Inspections Required as of January 1, 2023



The Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 331 on December 21, 2022, which requires a permit for inspection *prior* to the sale/transfer of properties in Amity Township. Visit our website www.amitytownshippa.com for more information on this process or call 610-953-0045. Apply for this permit on our website or click the picture below.

SANITARY SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

At the December 21, 2022 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 331 (amending our Sewer Use Regulations Part 3 of the Amity Township Code of Ordinances, adding Section 316) requiring the inspection; and if necessary, disconnection of illegal connections and/or repair of private sanitary sewer laterals prior to the sale/transfer of improved properties. **Effective January 1, 2023**

What is the purpose of this Ordinance?



Reduce inflow and infiltration into the public sanitary sewer system.

A significant portion of the total linear feet of the overall sanitary sewer system are privately owned laterals.

Single most effective method of reducing wastewater flows and key to long term success of effectively managing costs to residents.

Reduce treatment costs passed onto the residents.

Reduce capital expenses associated with capacity upgrades to existing pump stations and treatment plant.

What does the Ordinance Require?

The Lateral Ordinance requires a video inspection of the sanitary sewer lateral from the building to the Township-owned portion of the lateral, and visual inspection of buildings, vents, and cleanouts.

Applications can be found here:

<https://form.jotform.com/230094251430141>

The property owner will be responsible for correcting or repairing any deficiencies & providing documentation of the repair. Upon review and approval by Amity Township, a Certificate of Compliance (COC) will be issued. The COC is required prior to the transfer of any property in Amity Township that is currently connected to the public sanitary sewer system.

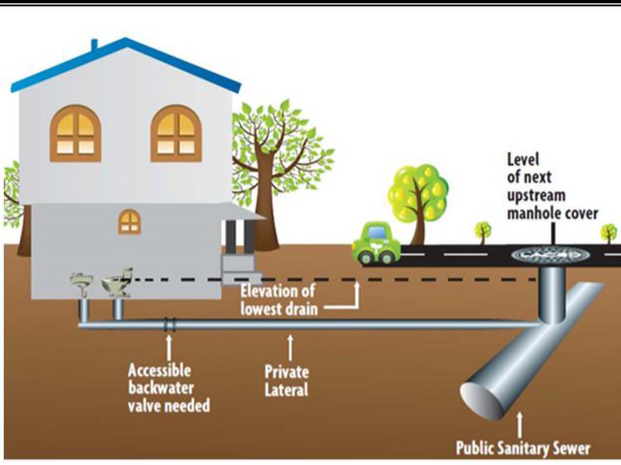
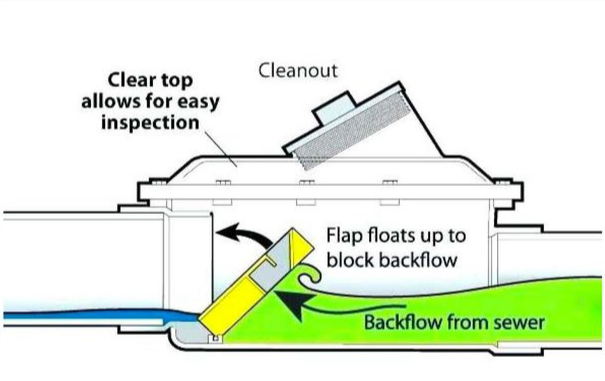

When are Inspections Required?

- Upon the sale or deed transfer of improved properties (residential and commercial) connected to the public sewer system.
- Upon inspection on the sanitary sewer system by the township, its personnel, or its authorized agent(s) that discovers a sanitary sewer lateral that is not in compliance.
- Should repairs be required, owner or owner's agent must obtain a permit prior to the repair taking place.

For more information visit our website at <https://amitytownshippa.com/wp/> or contact the Township at 610-953-0045.

Do you need a Backwater Valve?

Overflow Protection by Backwater Valves

	<p>When your dwelling's existing sanitary drainage piping is configured in a way that the flood rim of a plumbing fixture in a basement or lower level is lower in elevation than the next upstream manhole in the street, there is a potential for sewage to flow out of that fixture and into your house. This may occur if there is a blockage or surcharge in the sanitary sewer main. A backwater valve can help prevent this. If this plumbing configuration is present in your home, we highly recommend you have one installed. Amity Township is not responsible for sewage backups within private property.</p>
	<p>A backwater valve is a plumbing fitting that prevents the backward flow of sewage that might come from the sanitary sewer main following a blockage or surcharge. When sewage flows backwards, the flap in the backwater valve gets pushed by sewage and seals up the flow from coming back into the dwelling.</p>
	<p>A backwater valve is typically a PVC plumbing fitting that is installed in the main sanitary sewer lateral at the end of the dwelling's drainage system and before connecting to the sanitary sewer main. They can be installed in the interior or exterior of the dwelling. Either location, they must have access to be cleaned and inspected.</p>

Need help knowing whether you need this? Call 610-953-0045.

EMS Provider Update



The Board of Supervisors and staff wish to say Thank you to Western Berks EMS who has provided outstanding service over the past two years to the residents of Amity Township!

The Supervisors watched a presentation in October by Western Berks about the crisis facing EMS providers across the nation and how it's affecting them at the local level. Chief Executive Officer Tony Tucci informed the Board they have provided services at no cost for two years, and could no longer provide services without the Township subsidizing the difference between operating expenses and revenues, which in 2022 was over \$325K. The Board of Supervisors held a workshop meeting in November when they further discussed funding EMS services. The 2023 budget was adopted with a .15mil EMS tax, with funding of \$107,500.00. Due to the inability of the Township and Western Berks to agree on funding terms, the Township was issued a Notice of Termination for services, effective March 15, 2023. The Board and staff began soliciting EMS providers. One provider regretfully declined, citing staffing issues, one provider didn't respond to our inquiry and TowerDIRECT responded they would be interested in being considered.

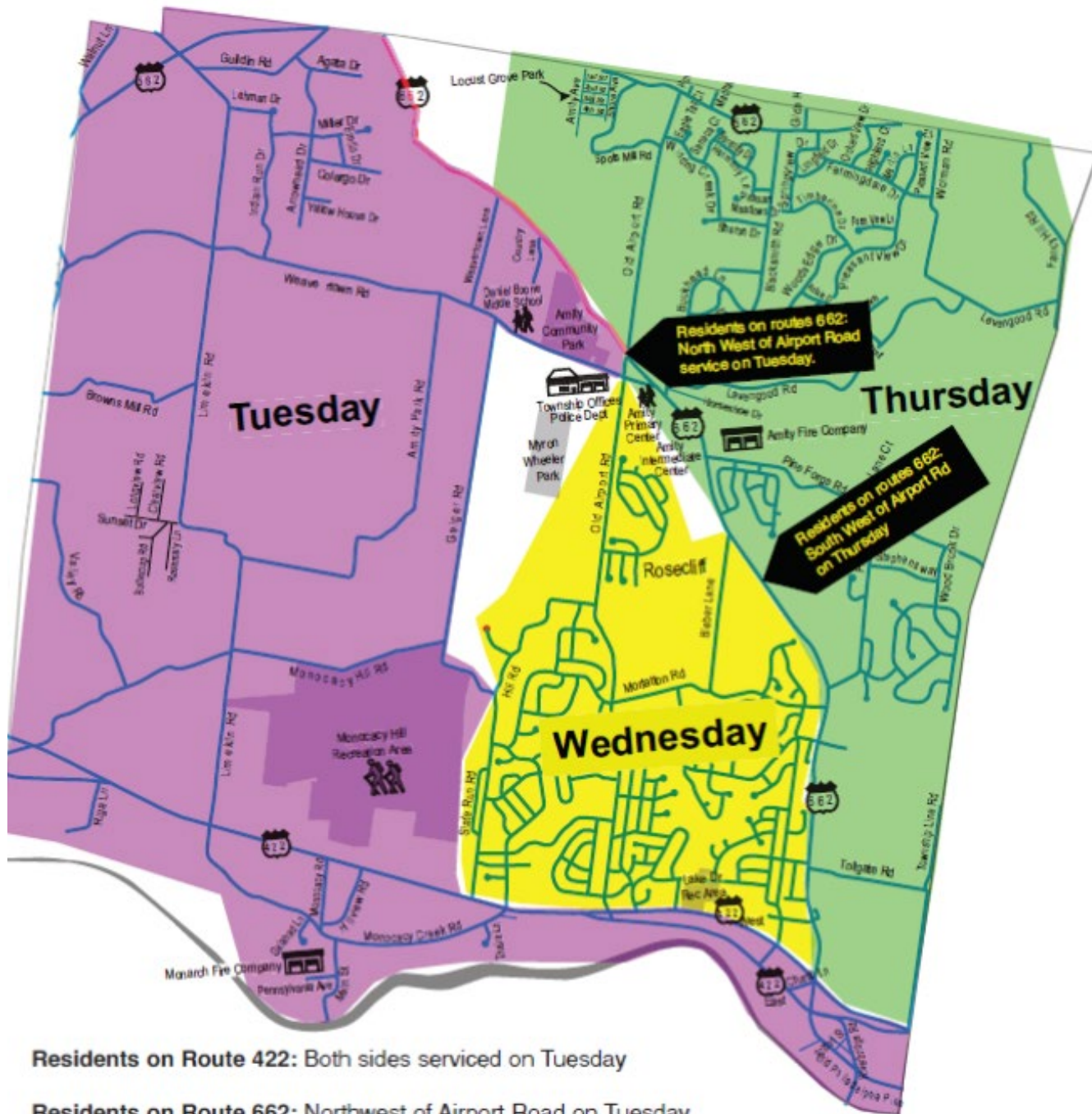
At the January 18th meeting, TowerDIRECT gave a presentation on providing services in Amity Township. Brad Cosgrove, Director & Chief of EMS, explained their organization was formed by combining Brandywine Hospital Medic 93, Southern Berks EMS, and Pottstown Medical Transport Team. TowerDIRECT readjusted the culture of the former entities and adopted best practices to forge a progressive and aggressive approach to providing EMS services. Mr. Cosgrove stated they have adequate staffing and could begin providing service to Amity Township within weeks. TowerDIRECT offers a 30% reduction in costs of membership per household to municipalities who participate in their Membership Program, meaning the Township would pay \$45.00/household instead of the typical \$65.00/household. There are 4,300 households in Amity Township. Doing the math, it would cost \$193,500.00 for Amity to participate in that membership program. With the .15 EMS tax covering only a little over half of the cost, TowerDIRECT would also send out a membership drive to residents. The membership drive would be mailed only after a contract has been fully executed. Once a contract has been fully executed, TowerDIRECT would be first due in the Township and would bill the patient's insurance company for services provided. Residents who pay for a membership would receive services and would not be "balance billed". Residents who *do not* pay for a membership would receive services from TowerDIRECT and would be "balance billed" for fees not fully covered by their insurance. Township staff is currently working with TowerDIRECT toward execution of a contract. The Board may choose to hold a special meeting to take action; or, may act at the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisor meeting on February 15th at 7:00pm. Stay tuned! More information will be forthcoming on the Township's website and Facebook page.



RESIDENCES - In case you missed it, there were some pretty BIG changes in recycling this month! JP Mascaro began collecting, and the Township was split into THREE zones. A mailer was sent mid to late December notifying residents of these changes, including a map to determine your collection day. See the map and schedule below or call our office at 610-953-0016 if you are still unsure about your collection day. As always, we recommend placing recycling out the night before your scheduled collection. Beginning next week, JP Mascaro will be tagging recycling bins for those who are putting their recycling out late. Please remember recycling containers can be heavy. You can use the containers provided by the Township or use your own. If you use your own containers, please be sure they are 45-gallon or smaller and have recycling stickers on all sides. If you need stickers, they are free, just stop by the Township office Monday through Friday, 8am until 4:30pm. If you miss collection, you can bring your recyclables to the Township building, and place them in the **green** recycling dumpster at the rear of the parking lot.

COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES - Commercial businesses in Amity Township are required by Ordinance 91-127 and Resolution 14-10 to recycle glass (clear and all colors), aluminum and tin cans, plastic #1 through #7 (bottles and containers only), mixed paper (newsprint, cardboard, corrugated boxes, magazines, office paper, junk mail, paperback books, phone books, gift wrapping, boxes, paper and catalogues). Commercial businesses are required to report on FM11 which can be completed by you, or FM12 which must be completed by your hauler. Please visit our website <https://amitytownship.com/wp/trash/> for these forms. These reports are due no later than February 15, 2023 and can be submitted via US mail to 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, PA 19518, fax to 610-689-9870 or email to kbenson@amitytownship.com. This information is important to the Township in aiding us to receive Recycling Performance Grant funds to offset costs.

Amity Township Collection Zone Map



Residents on Route 422: Both sides serviced on Tuesday

Residents on Route 662: Northwest of Airport Road on Tuesday.
Southwest of Airport Road on Thursday.

- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday



J. P. Mascaro & Sons
If it's service, it's us!

Amity Township Collection Calendar

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
H	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

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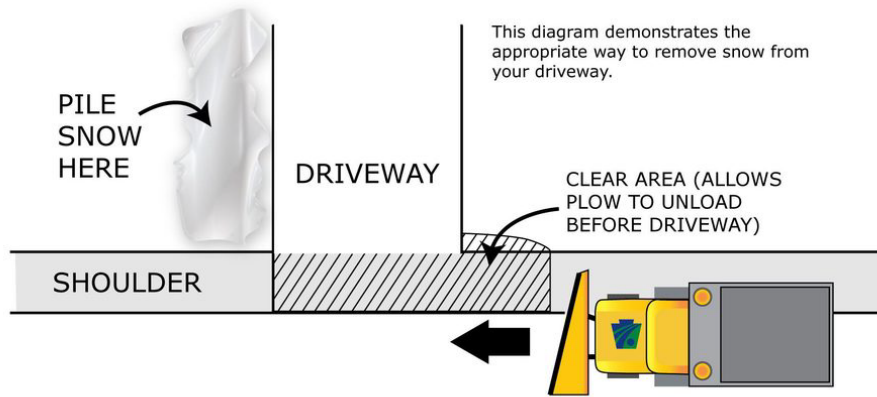
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December						
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31						



Just a few reminders, in case we get snow this winter!

As required by Ordinance, all vehicles should be removed from the street whenever there is 1” or more accumulation of snow and/or ice. Vehicles not moved will be fined \$40.00/day. Property Maintenance Code states where sidewalks exist, property owners are responsible to have a 2-foot wide path cleared of snow and ice within 24-hours after cessation of snowfall Amity Township, Chapter 7: Conduct, Subsection 7-125 prohibits placing items in the public street. Violators could be subject to fines. This includes mobile basketball hoops and recycling bins.

Please do not shovel or blow snow into the street. Doing so is a violation of the Municipal Code and hinderance to drivers and plow crews.

Lastly, if you have a fire hydrant near your home, please clear a 3-foot by 3-foot perimeter around the hydrant. *From our crews and volunteer fire companies, thank you in advance for your cooperation!*



Don't be a victim! Never leave a purse, phone or any valuables in your vehicle in plain sight. Even when the vehicle is locked, this can be an offer a thief just can't resist! If you're not taking valuables with you, consider locking them in the trunk until you return.

Applications are still be accepted for the **2022-2023 LIHEAP** season. Low-income families can apply for assistance online or by completing and mailing a paper form to the Berks County Assistance Office. For more details or to apply online, click the image below.

Applications must be received by April 28, 2023.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$20,385
2	\$27,465
3	\$34,545
4	\$41,625
5	\$48,705
6	\$55,785
7	\$62,865
8	\$69,945
9	\$77,025
10	\$84,105
For every additional person, add \$7,080	

Township Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 23rd at 7:00pm - Zoning Hearing for Don Fister (Side Yard Setbacks)

Thursday, February 9th at 7:00pm - Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00PM - Conditional Use Hearing for Limekiln Holdings

Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00pm - Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00pm - Parks & Recreation

***Meetings are held at the Township building, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, PA 19518**

Amity Township Board of Supervisors

Kim McGrath, Chairperson

Dave Hackett, Vice Chair

Paul "Skip" Weller, Terry Jones, Kevin Keifrider



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2004 Weavertown Rd
Douglassville, PA 19518-8971

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