



## December 2023 - Digital Newsletter

JOIN US FOR A  
**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST**

**DECEMBER 9**  
**4-8 PM**

Tickets to vote will be sold during the event  
PLEASE REGISTER AT THE LIBRARY TO RECEIVE THE RULES & GUIDELINES  
THE KITS ARE \$25

**2023 Boone Area Library  
Gingerbread Contest Rules**

GINGERBREAD HOUSE KITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE BOONE AREA LIBRARY UNTIL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH.

ONLY HOUSES USING KITS PURCHASED FROM THE LIBRARY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY.

THIS YEARS THEME IS, "STORYBOOK".  
(FROM A SPECIFIC BOOK OR FAIRYTALE).

ALL COMPONENTS USED TO CONSTRUCT MUST BE EDIBLE. GLUE MAY BE USED TO ATTACH PIECES TOGETHER.

HOUSES MAY BE ENTERED BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, BUT EACH PARTICIPANT MAY ONLY ENTER ONCE.

A NON-EDIBLE DECORATIVE BASE MAY BE USED.

DECORATED HOUSES MUST BE DROPPED OFF DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS AT THE BOONE AREA LIBRARY. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 5PM.

VOTING FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE PRIZES WILL TAKE PLACE DURING CHRISTMAS IN BIRDSBORO ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT THE BOONE AREA LIBRARY BETWEEN 5-8PM. WINNERS WILL BE CONTACTED MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH.

Time to get creative! It's time for this year's Gingerbread House Contest. The theme is "Storybook". Gingerbread houses are available for purchase at the library and need to be submitted by **December 8th at 5pm**, if you would like to enter the contest.



Bring your unwrapped gifts to the Township building now through December 8th.

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**Home Decorating Contest**

Entered homes will be judged in the evenings between 12/10 & 12/20

winners will be announced on Christmas Eve

**Categories**

- Judges overall \$500 Prize
- Nostalgic \$250 Prize
- Griswold \$250 Prize
- Inflatables \$250 Prize

**Free ENTRY**

AMITY TOWNSHIP 360

Thank You to the Sponsors of Harvest Fest & Winter Wonderland!

**Make Amity Shine! It is time to announce our Holiday Decorating Contest. All details are on the form. It is free to enter. THANK YOU to our yearly sponsors who make this happen. I will be recognizing them over the next several weeks. Remember, support the businesses that support your community!!!**

**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS FRIDAY DEC. 8TH.**

[Sign up here!](#)



# WINTER WONDERLAND

## DEC 16

NOON TO 7PM  
AMITY TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY PARK

bounce park - live music - food - beer tent  
tree lighting - vendors - photos with Santa  
bonfire - fireworks & much more

Food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available. Various entertainment will be provided throughout the day along with a visit from Santa. Tree lighting to begin at 7pm with fireworks to follow.

Amity Township residents can still get FREE ride wristbands (up to 3 wristbands per household) at the Township Building M-F 8AM-4:30PM with proof of residency. Additional wristbands or non-residents are \$10 each (non-refundable).

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## Here he comes.....

Santa has confirmed his arrival with Monarch Fire Co! We are all excited to see the Big Guy himself! Stay tuned for the tracker that day so you can follow his route through the township. As always, we are all volunteering our time to bring Santa to as many streets as possible, but we cannot hit every single one. We always try our best for our residents that we serve! Thank you for your understanding!



Amity Fire Company will be bringing Santa through the streets of Amity Township on Saturday, December 23rd beginning at 11:00am. Watch our Facebook for updates

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# Parks & Recreation



Amity is looking for one individual to join our seven (7) member Park & Recreation Board. The Board meets at the Township building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7PM. The Board is advisory to the Board of Supervisors and reviews and considers all things recreation and open space related. Interested parties shall submit a letter of interest and resume to [manager@amitytownshippa.com](mailto:manager@amitytownshippa.com) by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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The Board of Supervisors has approved advertising of the 2024 draft budget. The main increase in the 2024 budget consists of personnel related expenses, emergency medical services, recycling services, storm water costs, debt service, and CPI adjustments for nearly all expenses. The draft budget requires a small increase of .225 mil equating to \$22.50 per \$100K of assessed value.

Sewer rates will increase from \$140.00/quarter to \$145.00/quarter. The major upgrade/expansion is expected to be put out for bid in the beginning of 2024. Grant applications have been submitted to offset some of the expected costs. Rates will be re-evaluated after determination of funding methods to be used for this project.

The proposed budget is available for public inspection for a minimum of 20 days and will be considered for adoption at the Board meeting scheduled for December 20th.

# Sewer Rate Increase

Quarterly sewer rental rates will increase by \$5.00, to \$145.00 with the January 1st bills.

In an effort to address some of the comments received regarding our rates we have provided a neighboring municipality average water and sewer bill for comparison. We are striving to keep our rates reasonable, but sometimes a rate increase is inevitable to fund necessary improvements to stay in compliance with PA DEP regulations.

Residents are charged a flat rate on a quarterly basis. A flat rate means you are not billed based on metered usage.

Exeter Twp 2 Person Household - 2,600 gallons (sewer \$89/month)

Account Detail	
Service To: [REDACTED] APPLE DR. READING, PA 19606 [REDACTED]	
Prior Billing	126.01
Payments	-126.01
Total payments as of Oct 13. Thank you!	-126.01
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Service Related Charges - 10/05/23 to 11/01/23	
 <b>Water Service</b>	59.38
Water Service Charge	17.50
Water Usage Charge (26 x \$1.6108)	41.88
 <b>Wastewater Service</b>	89.05
Wastewater Service Charge	14.30
Wastewater Use Charge (26 x \$2.875)	74.75
<b>Total Service Related Charges</b>	<b>148.43</b>
<b>Total Current Period Charges</b>	<b>148.43</b>
<b>Total Amount Due</b> 	<b>\$148.43</b>

Exeter Twp 4 Person Household - 7,400 gallons (sewer \$227/month)

Account Detail	
Service To: [REDACTED] READING, PA 19606 [REDACTED]	Account No. [REDACTED]
Prior Billing	206.75
Payments	-206.75
Total payments as of Sep 1. Thank you!	-206.75
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Service Related Charges - 08/10/23 to 09/13/23	
 <b>Water Service</b>	136.70
Water Service Charge	17.50
Water Usage Charge (74 x \$1.8108)	119.20
 <b>Wastewater Service</b>	227.05
Wastewater Service Charge	14.30
Wastewater Use Charge (74 x \$2.875)	212.75
<b>Total Service Related Charges</b>	<b>363.75</b>
<b>Total Current Period Charges</b>	<b>363.75</b>
<b>Total Amount Due</b> 	<b>\$363.75</b>

# Medication & Eyeglass Disposal



Drop your unwanted or expired prescription or over-the-counter medication off for proper disposal at our Township building located at 2004 Weavertown Road M-F between 8:30am-4:30pm. Eyeglasses are accepted by the police secretary for the Lions Club.

**Liquid medications and sharps are not permitted to be disposed of at our location.**

**Per the DEA, labels may remain, but please remove names, phone numbers or other personal identifiers. The DEA wants to know what drugs are in the bottles.**





# Downsizing? Decluttering? Full House?



Pickup service offered for all household goods from furniture, clothing, housewares, and books.

Arrange for a pick-up by calling 484-957-3861 or email Denise Harner [dharnier@opphouse.org](mailto:dharnier@opphouse.org). We ask for 1 week's advance notice. Next day pick-up is not available.

100% of the proceeds support the programs and services at Opportunity House.

Items are sold at OppShop located at 3045 N. Fifth St Hwy Reading PA 19605  
Hours are Monday – Saturday 10AM to 7:30PM and Sundays 11AM to 6PM.

**Donations accepted Tuesday to Saturday 10AM-6PM.**

## Unaccepted Donations:

- chemicals
- older model console TVs and stereos
- copy machines/printers
- building supplies
- infant/toddler furniture
- computer monitors
- offices chairs with four or fewer wheels
- carpets
- tires





**CommunityAid**  
**THRIFT STORE**  
**AND DONATION CENTER**



And over 500 more!

Located at 5370 Allentown Pike Temple PA 19560 (next to Walmart)

**\*\*Donations accepted Mon-Sat 9am-6pm. Store/Donations closed on Sundays.\*\***

**Discount Days (must show ID) – 50% off**

Monday – Hero Day

-firefighters, EMS, police, active-duty military, veterans, healthcare workers and clergy

Tuesday – Senior Day

-everyone 55 and older

Wednesday – Family Day

-everyone

Thursday – Education Appreciation Day

-students, teachers, and all school employees

**Unaccepted Donations:**

-stained/torn garments, quilts, comforters, pillows

-tube style TVs and computer monitors

-mattresses, recliners, sofas, ottomans

-AC units, kerosene heaters, tires, dehumidifiers, gas-powered tools, vehicle chemicals/cleaning solvents

# IS IT A COLD OR FLU?

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU

If you get sick:

- Take antiviral drugs, if prescribed by a health care provider.
  - Take everyday precautions to protect others while sick.
  - Rule out the possibility of COVID-19.
  - Stay home until you are better.
-

## Slow Down, Stay Alert for Deer



As the fall breeding season for deer is in full swing, it is more important than ever to slow down and remain alert for activity. This is particularly important in the Commonwealth as Pennsylvania drivers unfortunately face one of the highest rates nationwide of a vehicular accident involving a big game animal, like deer: a 1-in-59 chance.

Drivers can reduce their chance of collisions with deer – and the associated injuries and property damage – by staying alert and better understanding deer behavior. Deer often travel in groups and walk in single file. If one deer crossed the road in front of a driver, another could be right behind it.

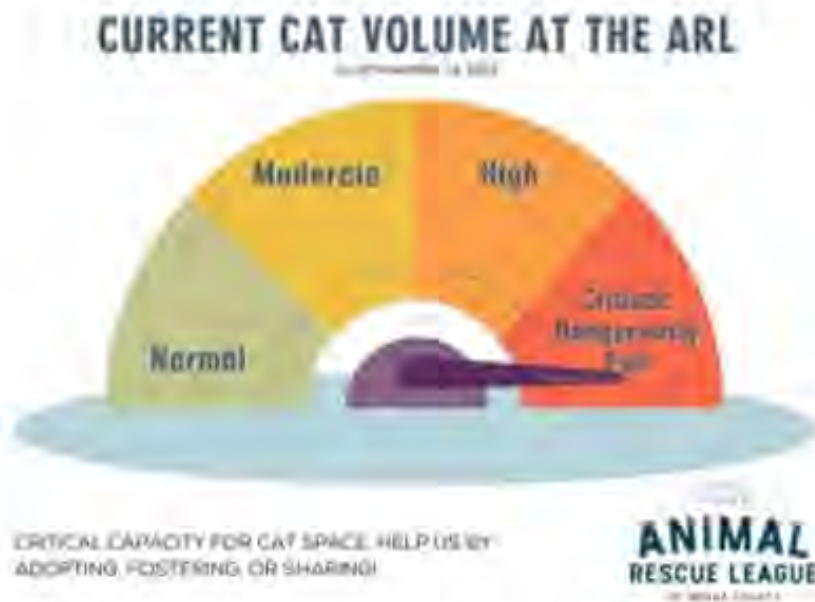
A driver who hits a deer with a vehicle is only required to report the accident to the Game Commission within 24 hours if the deer dies and the Pennsylvania resident wishes to keep the carcass. To do so, they can call 1-833-742-4868 or 1-833-742-9453. An agency dispatcher will collect the information needed to provide a free permit number. To report a dead deer for removal from state roads, motorists can call the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at 1-800-349-7623.

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# Holiday Safety Tips

<h2>The 12 Days of Christmas Safety</h2>		<p>Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands</p>  <b>1</b>	<p>Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets</p>  <b>2</b>
<p>Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources</p>  <b>3</b>	<p>Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over</p>  <b>4</b>	<p>Choose an artificial tree that is labelled flame resistant</p>  <b>5</b>	<p>If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly</p>  <b>6</b>
<p>Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire</p>  <b>7</b>	<p>Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use</p>  <b>8</b>	<p>Use an appropriate ladder or stepladder when putting up decorations</p>  <b>9</b>	<p>No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive!</p>  <b>10</b>
<p>When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils</p>  <b>11</b>	<p>Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning</p>  <b>12</b>	<h1>Merry Christmas</h1> 	

# ARL of Berks County Needs Help



Having a full shelter is dangerous for the animals since they are at a higher risk of contracting diseases, having their behavior decline, and their immune system compromised.

## How can you help?

**Foster:** taking pets into your care for a limited time will give this pet the opportunity to experience a loving home while waiting for a new family. The ARL provides all the resources needed to care for these pets during the foster period. Reach out to [foster@berksarl.org](mailto:foster@berksarl.org) to sign up.

**Volunteer:** Cleaning volunteers can help us to keep the cages free of diseases while helping our animal care staff to focus on preparing enrichment activities and medical care for the animals. Reach out to [volunteer@berksarl.org](mailto:volunteer@berksarl.org) to sign up.

**Donate:** By donating linens, toys, food, cat litter, or money, you can help the pets get the resources and care they need at the shelter.

[Donate Now!](#)

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# Scholarship Opportunity



## PSATS Scholarships

Inspiring the **NEXT GENERATION** of local leaders



Township officials are encouraged to promote the **BRAND-NEW PSATS SCHOLARSHIPS** to high school juniors and seniors.

**THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR EITHER SCHOLARSHIP IS JANUARY 26, 2024!**

The Local Government Achievement Scholarship	The Academic Achievement Scholarship
<i>Awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding <b>citizenship</b> through commendable public service and community involvement.</i>	<i>Awarded to students who demonstrate enthusiasm toward <b>education</b> by maintaining high academic standards.</i>



**BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION PROCESS TODAY.**  
Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded in each category for a total of four scholarships. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, reside in a Pennsylvania township of the second class, and be currently enrolled as high school junior or senior. Both achievement scholarships are open for career education opportunities whether they be 2- or 4-year college degree programs or technical training schools and certificate programs that lead to professions. Interested applicants may scan the provided QR Code or visit [psats.org/scholarship](https://psats.org/scholarship) to begin the application process. The deadline to apply for either scholarship is January 26, 2024. For more information, email Scholarship Program Coordinator Katie Lucas at [kk2200@psats.org](mailto:kk2200@psats.org).



Click to Apply!

## 2024 Finnegan Foundation Internships

**2024**

# **FINNEGAN FOUNDATION**

## **Internships**

**Applications are being accepted for  
undergraduate college students interested in  
politics and government.**

Application Deadline: January 26, 2024



SENATOR  
**TRACY** ★  
**PENNYCUICK**

Applications are currently being accepted for the [2024 James A. Finnegan Fellowship Foundation](#). This fellowship gives undergraduate college students interested in politics and government the opportunity to be placed in a paid internship at one of the state's executive agencies located in Harrisburg.

Students who want to apply for this fellowship need to submit an essay between 1,500 and 2,500 words about their opinions of the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS) Program, which would offer students in struggling schools grants to explore other educational opportunities.

Students have until January 26, 2024, to submit their essays and other materials to the foundation.




[Click to Apply!](#)

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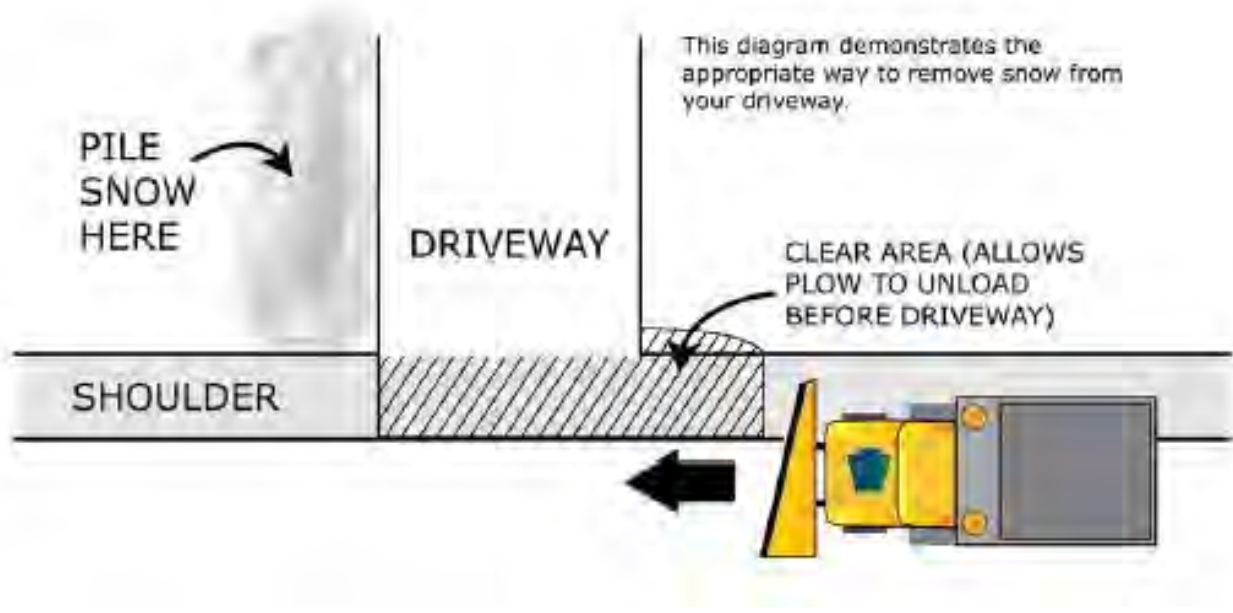


## IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

-  **Shut off the water immediately:** Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.
-  **Thaw a frozen pipe by warming the air around it:** Do not leave space heaters unattended and avoid using kerosene heaters or open flames.
-  **Carefully turn the water back on:** Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks.

## BEFORE THE COLD SETS IN

-  **Know how to shut off your water:** Locate your main water shut-off valve. In many homes, it is located near the water meter or close to where the water pipe enters the home.
  -  **Check sprinkler or irrigation systems:** Make sure everything is turned off and fully drained.
  -  **Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines:** Check for pipes in areas that might be prone to freezing, such as crawl spaces, unheated rooms, basements, garages, and exterior walls. Fix drafty windows, insulate walls around pipes and plug drafts around doors.
  -  **Protect your pipes:** Where pipes are exposed to cold, wrap them with insulation or heat tape (even fabric or newspaper can help).
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Crews do their best to remove snow quickly and efficiently. When there is 1" or more of snow and/or ice accumulation, vehicles must be removed from the street. Vehicles not in compliance will be fined \$40.00 per day.

International Property Maintenance Code, Section 302.3.1 state, 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.

Please help our volunteer fire companies by clearing a 3-foot by 3-foot perimeter around fire hydrants located on your property.

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Residents struggling with their home heating bills may apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

**The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are \$21,870 for an individual, \$29,580 for a couple and \$45,000 for a family of four. Residents may apply for LIHEAP online, by phone 610-736-4228 or by contacting their local county assistance office 610-736-4211.**

**The program runs through April 5, 2024.**

[Apply Now!](#)

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## **UNCLAIMED** PROPERTY SEARCH

The Pennsylvania Treasury Department is currently holding more than \$4.5 billion in unclaimed property, with about one in 10 residents eligible to recoup that property.

Unclaimed property includes dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks, insurance policies and contents of forgotten safe deposit boxes. The amounts can range from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars, with the average value of a claim being about \$1,600.

[Find Out Now](#)

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# PREVENT THEFT



**LOCK**  
YOUR CAR



**TAKE**  
YOUR KEYS



**HIDE**  
YOUR STUFF

**Don't be a victim!** Never leave a purse, phone or any valuables in your vehicle in plain sight. Locking your vehicle with valuables in plain sight can still attract unwanted attention.

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As we approach the holidays, it should be a time of joy and cheer. But for those who have lost loved ones, the holidays can also be a difficult time with periods of sadness. It's ok to not be ok. If you feel overwhelmed, please reach out for help. Operators are available to talk, text or chat any time, any day. Please call. Help is available when you need it!

We can all prevent suicide.  
Help is available 24/7/365

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
**LIFELINE**

**24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT**

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Thursday, December 14th at 7:00PM - Planning Commission

Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00PM - Parks and Recreation

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00PM - Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:00PM - Reorganization Meeting

Thursday, January 11th at 7:00PM - Planning Commission

Tuesday, January 16th at 7:00PM - Parks and Recreation

Wednesday, January 17th at 7:00PM - Board of Supervisors

**Meetings are held at the Township building, 2004 Weavertown Road.**

Township Office will be closing at noon in observation of Christmas Eve.

Township Office will be closed on December 25th in observation of Christmas Day.

Township Office will be closed on January 1st in observation of New Year's Day.

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### **Amity Township Board of Supervisors**

Kim McGrath, Chairperson / Dave Hackett, Vice Chair

Paul "Skip" Weller, Terry Jones, and Kevin Keifrider

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Our mailing address is:  
2004 Weavertown Road  
Douglassville, PA 19518