



March 2024 - Digital Newsletter



Monarch Fire Company Steak & Shrimp

Saturday March 2nd at 4pm

**Please be patient with our staff as food is first come, first serve.
Thank you in advance!**



Join us for a Seuss-tastic celebration at Boone Area Library on Saturday, March 2nd, from 10am-12pm.

Enjoy enchanting Storytime with Miss Amber

🧠 Get creative with Seuss-inspired crafts

🎲 Play entertaining games

🍪 Snack on delicious treats

🔍 Embark on a thrilling scavenger hunt to find hidden hats around the library

Plus, don't miss out on our exciting reading challenge! Enter for a chance to win a fabulous prize at the end of the week. 🏆

To secure your spot for this free event, please register by emailing mirielle.vasselli@boonelibrary.org.

All ages are welcome, but activities are geared towards 2-5 year-olds! ✨



The Township has been receiving complaints regarding AJ Blosenski's trash collection. Residents are encouraged to file complaints with the PA Office of Attorney General against their trash hauler.

[File A Complaint](#)



SEWER BILL REMINDER

- Only write your checks in **BLACK** or **BLUE** ink. **NO PURPLE, PINK, RED!**
- The mail can be slow, so make sure you have enough time around the due date if you are mailing the payments.
- A late fee of 10% is applied the day after the due date. We go by the date the envelope is stamped by the post office. We do not go by what you dated your check.
- Not receiving your bill does not exempt you from a late fee. You can sign up for Xpress Bill pay to receive your bills electronically.
- If your credit card expires in Xpress and you don't update Xpress with the new card number, it does not exempt you from a late fee.

Sign up for Xpress Bill Pay!

2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebates Available



Eligibility

This program supports Pennsylvania homeowners and renters who meet the following criteria.

- **Age Criteria**

- 65 and older
- Widows and widowers 50 and older
- People with disabilities 18 and older

- **Income Criteria**

- In addition to age requirements, to qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate, your household income must be \$45,000 or less annually.

Applications are due by June 30, 2024.

Apply Here!



Property tax bills for 2024 are mailed out at the beginning of March. If you have not received your bill by March 31st, please reach out to the Township Tax Collector at 610-953-0039.

The discount period is March 1st – April 30th.

The flat rate period is May 1st - June 30th.

The penalty period is July 1st - December 31st.

Bills can be paid M-F 8am-4:30pm at the Township located at 2004 Weavertown Rd.



Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour Sunday, March 10th!

Daniel Boone Optimist Club 27th Annual Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Daniel Boone Middle School

1845 Weavertown Road

Douglasville, PA 19518

Free Admission * Free Parking * Refreshments * Raffle



St. Patrick's Day - March 17th

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DRINKING & DRIVING

133 MILLION AMERICANS
celebrate St. Patrick's Day every year

41% OF AMERICANS
SPENT THE HOLIDAY
AT A BAR OR PARTY



12 AM - 6 PM 3/18

55% of fatal accidents
involve a drunk driver



50% drink
beer



19% drink
hard liquor



9% drink
both

\$4.63 BILLION

spent celebrating
st. patrick's day

5% SPENT ON BEER



2 OUT OF 5 CAR ACCIDENT FATALITIES OVER ST. PATRICK'S DAY INVOLVE DRUNK DRIVING

Saint
Patrick's
Day 

Eat and stay
hydrated



Use the
buddy system



Don't leave drinks
unattended

Don't
drink
and
drive



Have a plan to
get home safely



Rain Barrel Workshop Barrels and Beer



Saturday, March 23rd
11:00a.m
Saucony Creek
Brewery
Kutztown

**Pre-registration
required
\$40 per ticket
\$10 per additional
ticket**



To register contact:
jennifer.brooks@berkscd.com
610-372-4657 ext. 212

"Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."



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Easter Festivities at the Reading Museum



Easter Weekend Festivities

Pictures with the Easter Bunny

March 30 |9-11am

The Reading Public Museum will open its doors early on Saturday morning, March 30 for pre-registered guests to visit and have photos taken by Zerbe Photography with the Easter Bunny. Guests will receive craft kits and treats and can take part in a special Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt in the Museum.

***Registration is required for this event.**

Pricing:

Museum Members - FREE

Non-Members– Activities FREE with Museum admission

Easter Bunny Brunch

March 30 |11am-1pm

Join the Easter Bunny for a special Brunch at the Neag Planetarium! Pre-registered guests will enjoy a catered breakfast, can visit, and take photos with the Easter Bunny. Guests will also receive a special treat and can take part in an exclusive Easter Egg Hunt in the Arboretum!

***Registration is required for this event. SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Pricing:(does not include Museum Admission)

Children(17 and under) \$20

Adults \$15

March 30 and March 31 |11am-5pm

All Museum visitors will have the opportunity during public hours (11am-5pm) on Saturday and Sunday to continue the tradition of celebrating Easter at The Museum. Children ages 2 and up will receive craft kits and treats (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST), and explore The Museum while completing an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt.

***Registration is NOT required for this event.**



ON LOT SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Amity Township Ordinance regulations, which were mandated to match PA DEP regulations, require all on-lot septic tanks to be pumped and inspected every three (3) years.

In the spring of the year in which you are required to pump, reminders are mailed to each homeowner. The Certificate of Compliance you received during your last cycle lists the year you are to have it pumped and inspected.

If you choose to have it pumped on a non-required year, you can turn the hauler's inspection report card, and pump slip into the Township after the pumping is completed.

Amity Township accepts pumping report cards within one year from the date you turn it in. You will then be required to meet the Ordinance three (3) years

Dog Licenses - 2024 Updates



LICENSE YOUR DOG.

STATE LAW REQUIRES ALL DOGS 3 MONTHS OF AGE OR OLDER TO BE LICENSED BY JANUARY 1ST OF EACH YEAR.

OWNERS OF NON-LICENSED DOGS CAN BE CITED WITH A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$300 PER DOG PLUS COURT COSTS

IMPORTANT 2024 LICENSE FEE CHANGES (effective 2/1/24):

Male or Female Dogs - Annual \$8.70, Lifetime \$52.70

*Discount available for seniors and people with disabilities:

Male or Female Dogs - Annual \$6.70, Lifetime \$36.70

[Apply Here](#)



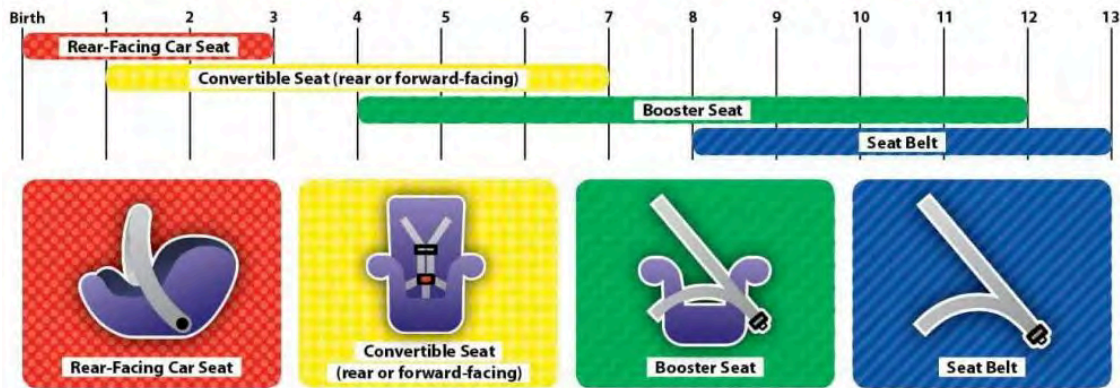
All businesses located within Amity Township are required to register and pay a fee to receive a business license. All businesses must complete this registration no later than March 31st to avoid a penalty.

Businesses that do not comply may be subject to a fine of not more than \$600.00.

Businesses must renew their licenses each calendar year.

Register Here!

How to Choose the Right Car Seat



Car Seat Checks

1. Exeter Township Police Department
4975 DeMoss Rd – Reading, PA 19606
610-779-1490

***By appointment only.**

2. Pottstown Memorial Medical Center
1600 E. High St – Pottstown, PA 19464
610-327-7145

***Every 3rd Friday of the month by appointment.**

390 W. Ridge Pike – Limerick, PA 19468
610-278-5119

***Every 3rd Friday of the month by appointment.**

4. PA State Police
600 Kenhorst Blvd – Reading, PA 19611
610-378-4011

***By appointment only.**

5. AAA Reading-Berks
920 Van Reed Rd – Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-374-4531 ext. 7117

***By appointment only.**

Lithium Battery Disposal



Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are used in many products such as electronics, toys, wireless headphones, handheld power tools, small and large appliances, electric vehicles, and electrical energy storage systems. If not properly managed at the end of their useful life, they can cause harm to human health or the environment. Lithium-ion batteries and devices containing these batteries should **NOT** go in household garbage or recycling bins.

Lithium-ion batteries **SHOULD** be taken to separate recycling or household hazardous waste collection points.

To prevent fires, tape battery terminals and/or place lithium-ion batteries in separate plastic bags.

Link Lithium Batteries: <https://search.earth911.com/?what=Lithium-ion+Batteries>

Disposal Sites

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards



Hazardous Waste

Free to Berks County Residents

April 13, 2024

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

600 Governor Drive

Shillington, Pa. 19607

All residents must pre-register to participate in our hazardous waste collection event.

Absolutely no Latex Paint will be accepted.

Put all empty containers in your regular trash collection.

[Register Here!](#)

Community Paper Shredding Event April 20, 2024

Residents of Berks County **ONLY** (No Businesses)

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
600 Governor Drive
Shillington, Pa. 19607

8:00 AM – Noon

All residents must pre-register to participate in our paper shredding event.

Registration will open soon.

Absolutely no plastic bags will be accepted.

Register Here!

Community Shredding Event



Amity Township Crime Watch
and

thrivent
Five Pillars Financial Group

Saturday, April 20 (Rain or Shine)
9:00 A.M. to Noon
Redner's Parking Lot
Douglassville, PA



Open to residents and local businesses in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Shredding is done by ProShred Security of Paoli. **Donations** accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding truck.

www.amitytwpcrimewatch.org
Carolyn – 610-385-3543

www.proshred.com
484-323-2100

Help stop identity theft-shred your outdated documents!

Easy Tips to Prevent Identity Theft

SECURE YOUR HARD COPIES
Every sensitive document should be kept in a safe. Credit cards and debit cards should be securely placed in your wallet at all times.
BONUS TIP: Shred all aged documents that contain sensitive information.

EXAMINE YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Review your financial statements monthly and check carefully for fraudulent activity. Report any suspicious charges immediately.
BONUS TIP: Sign up for alerts and limit your credit card activity to a specific geographical area.

CHOOSE STRONG PASSWORDS
Use different, strong passwords for each of your accounts and devices.
BONUS TIP: Use a secure password service, like Glzmodo, to create and store unique passwords.

PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER
Invest in a strong anti-spyware program to protect your hardware from hackers.
BONUS TIP: Encrypt your hard drive for an extra level of protection.

BE WARY OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS AND WEBSITES
Don't open suspicious-looking emails or click on links for unfamiliar sites.
BONUS TIP: If your inbox is flooded with promotional emails, unsubscribe from some of them. This will help you spot the truly bad apples in all that mail.

USE TWO-FACTOR IDENTIFICATION
The extra log-in step will help ward off scammers and add another layer of security to your accounts.
BONUS TIP: Never select to have a device "remember your password" for a site that involves payments of any kind.

AVOID PUBLIC WI-FI
Public Wi-Fi is a great hunting ground for thieves; steer clear if you can. At the very least, avoid all online banking or password logins while using public Wi-Fi.
BONUS TIP: Secure your own home Wi-Fi with a strong password.

Last year, Amity Township Police Department investigated over 100 incidents involving some type of identity theft. Identity theft can include social security numbers (adult and children), online logins and passwords, debit and/or credit card numbers, bank account numbers, driver's license information, and medical information.

If you fall victim, what do you do?

- ✓ Act quickly. Time is of the essence to protect against further fraud or damage to your credit.
- ✓ Check all your accounts to verify no other accounts were compromised.
- ✓ File a police report with your local police department. Be sure to provide the police department with copies of all the documents that support your claim.
 - ✓ Put a freeze on your accounts by contacting the 3 credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion).
 - ✓ Request a copy of your credit report from the credit reporting agencies and dispute any discrepancies on your credit report.
- ✓ Theft can also be reported to the Federal Trade Commission by calling 877-IDTHEFT.



Sent to Ronald McDonald house for their charities.

Soda tabs can be dropped off to the Amity Township Police Secretary.

Douglass Township Berks is hosting **BOWL & LASER TAG**

with Douglass Twp Berks, Amity Twp, Eastern
Berks Regional and West Pottsgrove Police,
Fire and First Responders



JAY LANES



1428 Ben Franklin Highway E, Douglassville
(610) 323-2434

COME JOIN US FOR A FUN
FILLED EVENING!
YOU GET TO MEET, GREET,
AND BOWL OR PLAY LASER
TAG WITH THE POLICE
OFFICERS IN YOUR
COMMUNITY!



Saturday, April 20, 2024

5:00pm - 8:00pm

**Free event with door
prizes**

**Call Today to
Reserve Your Spot!**

Support your local fire company!



Electric Out? Here's What to Do....



If you experience an outage due to the weather, text OUT to 544487 or report your outage online. Always report your outage even if your neighbors have already done so.

If you're not enrolled in outage alerts and text messaging, now is a great time to sign up.

- **Text REG to 544487 (LIGHTS) to enroll in text messaging. You can get update for your reported outage by texting STAT to 544487**
- **Sign into your online account and update the Text & Email Alerts page to receive restoration updates via email or text after you've reported your outage.**

Sign up for alerts

Home Energy Assistance Applications Accepted



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!

Who is Helping the Watershed?

Even if you live miles away from a river or stream, you can prevent water pollution by making sure that the runoff from your home and garden stays clean. Help Old Man River lighten his load!

Pollution solutions you can do at home.

Lawns and Gardens

- When using fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, read the label carefully and follow the directions.
- Avoid applying pesticides and fertilizers before storms.
- Never apply pesticides or fertilizers near wells, streams, and ponds, unless instructions allow for such use.

Environmentally Friendly Alternatives

- Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings dramatically reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.

Around Your Home – Household Chemicals

- If the label of a household product contains the words "toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, caution, danger, warning, or poison," it must be used and stored carefully.
- Many chemicals contained in household products are not completely removed by the biological treatment in septic systems or wastewater treatment plants. Buy and use only what you need.
- Never bury or dump on the ground any hazardous household wastes.

Environmentally Friendly Alternatives

- Baking soda on a damp cloth to scrub sinks.
- A mixture of white vinegar and water for cleaning ceramic tile floors, windows, and other glass surfaces.
- Borax flakes for washing clothes.

Control Soil Erosion

Add trees, shrubs, and ground covers to your lawn. Plants prevent soil erosion by keeping the dirt where it belongs... on your yard!

If your lawn is close to a stream, allow vegetation to grow along the waterway to slow runoff and trap sediments and pollutants.

Motor Vehicles

- Repair oil, antifreeze, and transmission fluid leaks promptly.
- Avoid spills. Keep kitty litter available to help clean spills.
- Recycle motor oil.

Pet Waste

- Clean up after pets by picking up wastes and either: disposing in the trash, or flushing down the toilet.



7 (Better) Alternatives to Salt for De-Icing Driveways

1. Rubbing Alcohol: In a bucket, mix 1/2 gallon of warm water with 6 drops of dish soap and 1/4 cup of rubbing alcohol. Splash this around on your icy spots and watch the ice bubble up and melt away.
 2. Epsom Salt: Combine sugar and Epsom salt in a 1:1 ratio to speed up Epsom salts' melting power.
 3. Garden Fertilizer/Alternative Salts: Calcium chloride mixed with sand (mix one part to 3 parts) or Magnesium chloride.
 4. Urea: ASPCA says urea-based products are gentlest on pet's paws and are nontoxic to dogs.
 5. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA)
 6. Natural Fertilizer: Alfalfa meal, wood ashes, coffee grounds.
 7. Salt Plus Hot Water: Boil a large pot of hot water and gently pour on ice. Sweep the water off the surface so that it doesn't get cold and freeze and then sprinkle the salt.
-



Comcast is working on the final permits needed to complete the deployment of services throughout the Township. Services are expected to be available in all new areas by fall of 2024.

Residents can stop into the Xfinity store at 310 Upland Square Dr., Pottstown, PA where questions can be answered. Residents can enter their address for additional details on construction timing and upcoming service availability using the button below.

[Click Here for Info!](#)



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

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

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

Meetings are held at the Township building, 2004 Weavertown Road.
Township Office will be closed on Friday March 29th for Good Friday.

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 Rd
Douglassville, PA 19518