



February 2024 - Digital Newsletter

Steak & Shrimp Dinner - Monarch Fire Co.



Steak and Shrimp Night

Please be patient with our staff! Everyone staffing the dinner is volunteering their time. Good things are worth the wait so please be patient!

**Saturday, February 3
from 4-7 pm**

STEAK AND SHRIMP MENU

STEAK AND SHRIMP DINNER	\$24.00
STEAK DINNER	\$18.00
SHRIMP DINNER	\$11.00
SHRIMP ONLY	\$7.00
CHICKEN FINGERS & FF	\$6.00
CHICKEN FINGERS ONLY	\$5.00
CHEESBURGER	\$3.50
PEROGIES (4)	\$2.50
FRENCH FRIES	\$2.50
HOT DOG	\$1.25

**ALL DINNERS INCLUDE:
SALAD OR PEPPER CABBAGE
FRENCH FRIES OR BAKED POTATO
AND A DINNER ROLL**



If you still need to dispose of your Christmas tree, you can bring it to the Township for recycling.

Snow Removal 101



International Property Maintenance Code, Section 302.3.1 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.

**VIOLATORS
SUBJECT
TO FINE**



If 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.



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

Shake your mailbox

This simple trick will get you ready for winter.



Winter is coming. Don't let your mailbox become a casualty of winter weather.



Damaged mailboxes can be hazardous to drivers if they come loose.



Mailboxes that aren't sturdy are more likely to break or be damaged by heavy snow, wind and the force from plows.



To check the sturdiness of your mailbox, shake it by the post and if it "gives," it's likely that your mailbox could come loose this winter.



If you believe your mailbox was damaged by our plows during a snowstorm, please call our Roads Department at 610-953-0018.



When the ground is frozen, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way a light or moderate rain would be able to. This means that even a small amount of snow can cause flooding issues on your property. When snow melts, it picks up all kinds of debris and pollutants that will make their way to nearby streams and creeks.

Check out some steps that you can take to prevent stormwater pollution this winter:

1. **Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity for it to infiltrate into the ground.**
 2. **Use de-icing salts sparingly.** Follow product instructions and give it time to work. Sweep up any remaining material.
 3. **Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto the storm drains.**
 4. **Salt is not effective once temperatures hit 15 degrees Fahrenheit or below.** Consider using traction materials that contain acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, or cracked cornmeal.
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In a continuing effort to keep our residents informed, we are pleased to announce we have been awarded \$1,750,000 from the ARPA H2O Water and Sewer Program. The funding will help offset the cost of Amity's sewer treatment plant upgrade and expansion.

The project has been advertised for bidding with an anticipated award date in April. The Township will continue to evaluate the costs of this project and funding sources for this project. Sewer rates will increase to produce the necessary funding for the project.

February is American Heart Month



Matters of Your Heart



RISKS

56% of adults have been told by a healthcare professional to improve their health

83% believe that heart attacks and stroke can be prevented, but aren't motivated to do anything

60% of adults don't know their blood pressure and cholesterol numbers
44% monitor their blood pressure outside of the doctor's office

99% of Americans need to improve their heart health

72% don't consider themselves at risk for heart disease

58% put no effort into improving their heart health

Heart disease is the **#1** leading cause of death in the United States.

1 of every 3 deaths in the United States is caused by heart disease and stroke

Lowering your blood pressure may decrease your risk of stroke and heart disease by about **50%**

Every **25 seconds** an American will have a coronary event



Every **39 seconds** someone dies from heart disease and stroke

Each year, an estimated **785,000** Americans will have their first heart attack

Each year, an estimated **470,000** Americans will have another heart attack

FACTS



8 signs to detect early stages of cancer

 Unusual bleeding or discharge	 Change in bowel and bladder habits	 A sore that does not heal	 Nagging cough and hoarseness
 Decrease in weight	 Obvious change in mole or wart	 Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing	 Thickening or lump

Golfin' in the Galleries



Take your family mini golfing through the galleries!

Golf in the galleries from 11am–5pm from February 17-19. No reservations necessary. \$5 per ball with the price of admission. Admission is FREE for Members.

Join us in the galleries for a mini golf tournament on Friday, February 16, from 6-9pm! Golfin' in the Galleries makes for a great night out with friends or a fun team building and networking event for clients and colleagues!

The night promises to be filled with...

•Putting contest • 18-holes of mini golf • Open Bar • Food stations • Raffle Prizes

TICKETS: \$50 per Member individual, \$100 per Non-Member individual; \$200 per Member foursome, \$400 per Non-Member foursome

Contact Sydney at sydney.ernst@readingpublicmuseum.org to find out how you can register your foursome or how your business can sponsor & support The Museum at Golfin' in the Galleries! Sponsorships levels start at \$500.

**Reading Public Museum
500 Museum Road
Reading, PA 19611
610-371-5850**



Township offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of President's Day.

National Eating Disorder Awareness Week 2/26-3/3



Eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of all mental health disorders, surpassed only by opioid use disorder.



28.8 million Americans experience an eating disorder at some point in their lives.



It's Time to Talk About It
#NEDAwareness



It's National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Anorexia, Bulimia and Binge Eating Disorder are serious mental illnesses but recovery is possible. Visit www.nationaleatingdisorders.org for more information or to find an event near you!

Eating Disorders don't discriminate, they effect all ages, sexes, ethnicities, races and every socio-economic status- You are not alone.

35% of dieters develop disordered eating. If you're worried about yourself or a friend, call 800-931-2237 to get help

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
Douglassville, PA 19518**

Free Admission * Free Parking * Refreshments * Raffle



Vendor Application

Safety Tips



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 6** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/winter and nfpa.org/winter.

Winter Safety Tips – Utility Equipment

Please keep outside meters and vents clear of ice and snow. Use a broom or brush to gently clear the area around the meter, pushing snow away from the meter. Do not melt ice or snow on meters with a heat source, and do not chip or scrape ice. These methods can damage or break the meter. It is also important to remove icicles that hang over the meter and can drip freezing water that may damage equipment.

Make sure exhaust vents aren't covered by snow or blocked by ice

Exhaust vents for high efficiency natural gas appliances such as water heaters, furnaces and fireplaces should also be cleared of snow and ice. Keep clothes dryer vents unblocked and clean too. Exhaust gases need a clear opening to vent to the outside and prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide, a dangerous gas. Most exhaust vents are plastic pipes exiting the foundation of a building. Some inside gas meters vent to the outside through a small metal pipe vent through the foundation.



Be cautious to avoid hitting buried equipment during snow removal

Be careful when clearing snow, especially when using mechanized equipment—plows and snow blowers—and avoid areas where utility equipment such as meters, piping, and ground-mounted transformers may be covered by snow. Manually clear utility equipment with a broom or brush. Take note of the locations of outside utility equipment before major snowfalls.

Sample Appliance Vents



Sample Outside Vent for Indoor Gas Meter



Nearly blocked vent pipe



Buried gas meter



Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention

Five cartoon penguins are shown in a row, each illustrating a different safety tip. The background is a blue sky with white snowflakes. The tips are:

- Walk flat footed and take short steps
- Wear footwear that provides traction
- Step down, not out from curbs
- Use your arms for balance
- Carry only what you can

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](#)

If you find or lose a pet within Amity Township, please call the Township at (610) 689-6002 or after hours, (610) 655-4911.

If you use Facebook and can hold the found animal for a period of time, please post dogs to @BerksDogSearch as well as @Amity Township, Berks County, PA. For cats, please post to @BerksCountyCatSearch and @Amity Township, Berks County, PA.

If none of the above are successful, we have entered into a contract with Safety Net Sanctuary – they will only accept animals from Amity Township's designated representatives – please call us.


REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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!



POPTAB
program

RMHC

Sent to Ronald McDonald house for their charities.

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

Sharps Medication Disposal

Do

- Immediately place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container to reduce the risk of needle-sticks, cuts, or punctures from loose sharps.
- Use an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container, if possible. If an FDA-cleared container isn't available, some organizations and community guidelines recommend using a heavy-duty plastic household container (i.e. laundry detergent container) as an alternative.
- Make sure that if a household disposal container is used, it has the basic features of a good disposal container. (See box at right for more info.)
- Be prepared — carry a portable sharps disposal container for travel.
- Follow your community guidelines for getting rid of your sharps disposal container.
- Call your local trash or public health department (listed in the county and city government section of your phone book) to find out about sharps disposal programs in your area.
- Ask your health care provider, veterinarian, local hospital or pharmacist
 - o where and how you can obtain an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container,
 - o if they can dispose of your used needles and other sharps, or
 - o if they know of safe disposal programs near you.
- Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposal containers out of reach of children and pets.



All sharps disposal containers should be:

- made of a heavy-duty plastic;
- able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-proof lid, without sharps being able to come out;
- upright and stable during use;
- leak-resistant; and
- properly labeled.

Don't

- Throw needles and other sharps into the trash.
- Flush needles and other sharps down the toilet.
- Put needles and other sharps in your recycling bin — they are not recyclable.
- Try to remove, bend, break, or recap needles used by another person. This can lead to accidental needle sticks, which may cause serious infections.
- Attempt to remove the needle without a needle clipper device because the needles could fall, fly off, or get lost and injure someone.

Best Way to Get Rid of Used Needles and Other Sharps:

Step 1: Place all needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used.

Step 2: Dispose of used sharps disposal containers according to your community guidelines.

For more information visit, www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal.

Lithium Battery Disposal

**BATTERIES
CAN SPARK
OR EXPLODE**

They don't belong in recycling or trash.



Tape it. Bag it. Drop it.



Tape battery terminals

OR



Place in a small zip lock bag



Drop into a battery recycle box or provided carton

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



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!](#)

Watch Out for Common Scams

Cybercriminals are always coming up with new ways to take advantage of people, but these common scams have been around for a while.



IRS Taxes Owed

Thieves pretend to be the IRS and demand a bogus tax payment.



Sexploitation

A hacker has your password (likely an old one) and claims to have video evidence of visitations to porn sites. The hacker asks for a payment or he will send evidence to your friends and family.

HOT



Family in Danger

A relative writes to say they are in danger or stranded in a foreign country and need a wire transfer immediately.



Medicare and Social Security Updates

Scammers will reach out via phone, email or mail to ask for more information for medicare and social security.



Looking for Love

A handsome stranger reaches out on social media or email to say your picture caught their eye and they'd like to get to know you or are attracted to you.



Computer Repair

A fake tech support company will call to say your computer needs repair or updating and will ask you to connect remotely.

Also, emails and computer pop-up windows may claim your computer has a problem and ask you to click to fix it.

HOT



Fill in the Blanks

Criminals may have found you through a stolen database, and may have some facts that make them sound legitimate. They may ask you to verify the information they have and fill in the blanks.



Missed Delivery

Scammers will send an email saying you missed a package delivery, asking you to fill out a form and take it to FedEx, UPS or the post office.

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.

Report Outage

Stay Safe During an Outage

If you should lose power due to the weather, stay safe with these tips:

- Use a flashlight or battery-powered lantern for light. Use care when burning candles; open flames are a dangerous fire hazard.
- When operating a generator, the power coming into the home should always be disconnected. Otherwise, power from the generator could be sent back onto power lines, creating a hazardous situation for workers.
- Assume all downed or low-hanging power lines are energized and dangerous. **Stay at least 30 feet away and report them ASAP to 9-1-1.** Stay alert for downed power lines that may be hidden or tangled in trees or other debris.

Sign up for alerts



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!

Food Pantry at St. Paul's



Our Food Pantry box is up and running. If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance, the pantry box is now stocked with goods. It is located just outside the main entrance and can be accessed anytime.

For more information, please contact Suzi Kresge at 610-212-4395 or email susiek1013@gmail.com



Thursday, February 8th at 7:00PM - Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 20th at 7:00PM - Parks and Recreation

Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00PM - Board of Supervisors

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

Township Office will be closed on February 19th in observation of President's Day.

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