



January 2024 - Digital Newsletter

**TICKETS
ARE \$15
EACH**

**ADULT
PROGRAM
(18+)**



**SATURDAY,
JANUARY
6TH
4 - 5 PM**

**EACH TICKET
HOLDER WILL
GO HOME
WITH SOME
MOCKTAIL
GOODIES!**



JOIN US FOR A...

Mocktail Workshop

Snacks will be supplied!



All proceeds benefit
the library

Quench your thirst this dry January and go home with some of the ingredients you will be using as well!

Pre-registration is encouraged. Tickets for the event will be on sale at the Library Circulation Desk for \$15. You may also email the director mirielle.vasselli@boonelibrary.org to reserve a ticket.



After the holidays, our Public Works crews will work through the Township to collect and chip trees on Thursdays: January 4th, 18th and 25th and on Tuesdays, January 9th, 16th and 23rd. Crews will work through the Township using the same schedule as leaf collection.

If your address is not listed in any of the zones, then your collection will start after zone 3 is completed.

Place your tree away from trash bins to avoid haulers disposing of your tree. Remove all decorations and lights from your trees before putting them out for pick-up.

Recycling Reminders



-Put recycling out the night before your scheduled pick-up (i.e., Monday night for Tuesday pick-up).

-If your pickup falls on a holiday week, then the pick-up is pushed out one day. We have flyers that show the schedule available in our lobby.

-Break down your boxes so more materials can fit in the truck.

-Call immediately to report missed pick-ups at 610-953-0016. We can sometimes get it picked up that day if reported early enough.

-Trash cans marked with other providers' logos will not be picked up if put out for recycling. (example J.P. Mascaro will not pick up a Whitetail Disposal can, full of recyclables).

-Old or damaged bins can be marked for recycling and left out on your pick-up day. You can also place them in the grassy area next to the front door of the Township building and our staff will dispose of them.

If you need a recycling bin or to replace one, we have two kinds available at our office for pickup Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm. We have a round bin with a lid or a rolling bin with a lid. Unfortunately, we do not deliver bins.

2024 Tax Increases

TOWNSHIP:

The Board of Supervisors adopted the 2024 budget as presented with a small increase of .225 mil equating to \$22.50 per \$100K of assessed value. The largest part of this increase will support EMS services.

COUNTY:

Berks County adopted their 2024 budget with an 8.99% tax increase. It is their first increase in 6 years. Taxes will increase from 7.657 mils to 8.345 mils equating to \$834.50 per \$100K of assessed value.

Snow Removal 101



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.

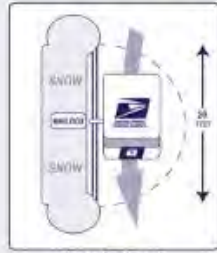
If there is 1" or more of snow and/or ice accumulation, vehicles must be removed from the street. Vehicles not in compliance will be fined \$40.00 per day.

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

CURBSIDE DELIVERY GUIDELINES



HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER!



Properly Cleared



Insufficient Snow Removal



20
FEET

*A properly cleared
mailbox area ensures
safe and prompt delivery
of your mail and packages!*

Approaches and exits to rural or curbside mailboxes should be clear of snow, ice, vehicles, trash-cans, objects or obstacles. Snow should be cleared at least ten feet on each side of your mailbox and all the way up to the mailbox post to allow for safe delivery of your mail. Some postal customers opt to put a temporary mailbox in the snow in situations where snow removal is not practical; the same guidelines apply for clearance as permanent mailboxes. The carrier needs to be able to deliver to the mailbox without backing up. Your consideration and cooperation is appreciated!

Questions may be directed to your local post office.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!



Wipe your dog's paws and your shoes off. Ice-melting chemicals can make your pet sick.

Ensure you are winter ready!

Are you Ready^{PA}?

WINTER DRIVING



THE 10 MUSTS for WINTER-DRIVING



EMERGENCY VEHICLE KIT

- Ice scraper/snow brush
- De-Icer
- Small snow shovel
- Warning devices (flare/triangles)
- Bag of salt or sand
- Flashlight
- Battery cables
- Tire chains
- Paper towels
- Blanket
- Non-perishable food

1. Don't drive unless it's absolutely necessary

Long-distance trips are especially risky in a snowstorm; question whether the trip is really crucial. The Turnpike will sometimes restrict travel to emergency vehicles – if necessary.

2. Recognize that travel takes longer in bad weather

If you choose to travel, know it could take significantly longer to get there. Plan ahead, and build in extra travel time. Be prepared with an emergency vehicle kit just in case.

3. Thoroughly remove snow & ice from your vehicle

All windows and mirrors should be completely clear to improve visibility; but don't forget to clear the hood, roof and trunk. State law states that if snow or ice from your vehicle strikes a vehicle or person and causes death or injury, you can be prosecuted.

4. Turn on your headlights during a storm

You need to see well to drive safely.

STATE LAW states if your wipers are on, your headlights should be too. It lets you see and be seen during a snowstorm. Remember, low beams often make it easier to see in heavy or blowing snow.

5. Slow down and don't tailgate

Drive at a speed suitable for conditions and avoid sudden starts and stops. During a storm, the posted speed limit is usually too fast. It's the driver's responsibility to slow down to a safe speed. It's also your responsibility not to hit the vehicle in front of you, so allow plenty of stopping distance between vehicles.

6. Never pass an active snow plow

The equipment operator cannot see you; and your visibility is limited because of snow spray from the plow. Besides, the roadway is untreated and slick in front of the truck, so what's the point? It never pays to pass a plow.

7. Be prepared for fast-changing conditions

Conditions often vary widely during a snowstorm; dry pavement can quickly change to slick or icy pavement because of drifting snow, temperature drops and plow cycles. The opening hours and closing volleys of a storm tend to bring the most severe fluctuations. Use extra caution on bridges and ramps where ice can often form without warning.

8. Watch for reduced speed limits and trailer bans

If conditions warrant, the speed limit on the PA Turnpike will be lowered to 45 mph during a storm. In addition, the Turnpike will impose bans on empty and double trailers and other types of commercial and passenger vehicles.

9. Never leave a vehicle unattended

Our equipment operators cannot adequately clear the road with disabled vehicles blocking the way, so all abandoned vehicles are immediately towed during a weather emergency. If you do breakdown during a snowstorm, be sure your vehicle is as far from active travel lanes as possible.



10. Ignore distractions and remember seatbelts

Focusing on driving and buckling up are two of the best ways to ensure everyone's safety. When the weather is bad, they're doubly critical. Put the smartphone down and the seatbelt on.



PA TURNPIKE COMMISSION • P.O. Box 67676, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7676 • 800.331.3414 • www.paturmpike.com

Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Involved.



www.ready.pa.gov

What to have in your winter
Vehicle Emergency Kit

- First aid supplies
- Food and water
- Jumper cables
- Basic tools
- Cell phone and charger
- Blanket and warm clothes (coat, hat, and gloves)
- Ice scraper



Are you ReadyPA? TIP SHEET

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STATE COLLEGE, PA #SnowSquallSafetyPA

SNOW SQUALLS

WHAT ARE THEY?

- Intense short-lived moderate to heavy snowfall bursts
- Quick reduction in visibility and whiteout conditions from gusty winds
- Associated with strong cold fronts which bring Arctic air during winter

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

- Rapidly deteriorating conditions can cause roads to become icy and slick in a matter of minutes; "Flash Freeze"
- Often lead to chain-reaction accidents and treacherous travel



- SAFETY:**
- There is no safe place on a highway during a snow squall event
 - Consider an alternate route or delaying travel, reduce speed and turn on headlights
 - STAY ALERT AND WEATHER AWARE!
- 

THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE ON A HIGHWAY DURING A SNOW SQUALL

<p>What is a snow squall?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief but intense period of heavy snow, strong winds, and whiteout conditions. Can cause roads to become icy. 	<p>If a snow squall warning is issued, what should I do?</p> <p>Avoid or delay motor travel until the squall passes through your location.</p>	<p>511PA App</p>  <p>Download this FREE app to get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic conditions Traffic speeds Live traffic camera images Highway construction updates Weather conditions and alerts 
<p>What is a snow squall warning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued for areas that will be impacted by snow squalls. Will trigger an alert on your cell phone. <p>penn.gov/winter-weather.gov/safety/winter-snow-squall</p>	<p>What if I am already traveling?</p> <p>Safely exit the road at the next opportunity.</p> 	
	<p>What if I cannot exit the road in time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow down gradually. Turn on your headlights and hazard lights. Stay in your lane. Increase your following distance. Avoid slamming on your brakes. 	



Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Involved.



Selling a house or buying a house in Amity?



Current Homeowners (Sellers):

1. Ensure you have an I&I re-sale inspection completed prior to the sale of your home if you have **public sewer**. A plumber who can televise and record is needed for this inspection. The Township cannot give recommendations on who to use. More information is available on our website.
2. If you have **private sewer** (septic system/on-lot system), then you are exempt from the I&I inspection, but you should make sure your septic system has been pumped and your pumping information is up to date with the Township.
3. Turn off auto-pay if you have it enabled through Xpress Bill Pay.
4. Please leave your recycling bins for the next owners if you are moving out of the Township.

I&I Re-Sale Inspection Info!

New Homeowners (Buyers):

1. Stop into the Amity Township building or visit our website www.amitytownship.com to pick-up a recycling schedule and/or bin.
2. Trash is private and a provider must be selected by the homeowner.
3. Sign up for Xpress Bill Pay for your sewer bill if applicable. Auto pay and paperless billing are available.
4. Sign up for our digital newsletter.

Sign up for Xpress now!

Safety Tips

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Did you know? As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!

DEC JAN FEB

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

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

 Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source.

 U.S. Fire Administration

 Fire Prevention

 NFPA

Danger, Danger!

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

CO is a **TOXIC GAS** that's
Colorless
Odorless
Tasteless

Unintentional Carbon Monoxide exposure accounts for an estimated

500 unintentional DEATHS

15,000 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS
IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR



- ### Recognize the Symptoms
- Mild Exposure:**
- Slight headache
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Fatigue
 - Flu-like symptoms
- Medium Exposure:**
- Severe headache
 - Drowsiness
 - Confusion
 - Rapid heart rate
- Severe Exposure:**
- Unconsciousness
 - Convulsions
 - Cardiac or respiratory failure
 - Death

Prevention IS KEY

- **Install CO detectors** on each floor, especially in hallways of your living space or bedrooms. Detectors should be mounted 6 inches away from the ceiling or end of the wall, but not over furnace vents or gas stoves or dryers.
- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil or coal burning appliances **serviced every year.**
- **Never use** gas-powered tools, generators, grills or camp stoves **indoors.**
- **Never use a gas range or oven for heating.**
- **Never leave a running vehicle in a garage with the door closed.**

Top 10 Causes of CO POISONING

1. Blocked or clogged chimney
2. Gas or wood-burning fireplaces
3. Portable kerosene heaters
4. Gas stove
5. Gas dryer
6. Leaking chimney pipe or flue, or malfunctioning furnace
7. Corroded gas water heater vent pipe
8. Grilling in a poorly ventilated space
9. Running car in a closed garage
10. Operating gas-powered tool indoors

CO Poisoning

Can mimic flu symptoms but there are **DIFFERENCES**



TIME
 Flu – DAYS
 CO poisoning – MINUTES to an HOUR

RANGE

CO poisoning affects **EVERYONE** in the home or building.

- ### Act FAST if Exposed
1. Call 911.
 2. Rescue who you can.
 3. **GET OUT!** Fresh air assists in the removal of CO from your body.
 4. Leave doors open.
 5. Stay calm.



CARBON MONOXIDE: How to spot the dangers



MILD

Slight headache
Nausea
Vomiting
Fatigue



MEDIUM

Severe headache
Confusion
Drowsiness
Fast heart rate



EXTREME

Unconsciousness
Convulsions
Cardio-respiratory failure
Death

HOW TO SPOT A Possible Gas Leak

To avoid down-time or a natural gas accident, learn to spot the signs of a leaking gas line.

Distinct, Pungent Odor

Mercaptan is added to give gas its smell; it's deliberately bad-smelling

Visual Distortions From Temperature Change

Gas is cooler than ambient air temperature

Mist

Debris or white cloud of water vapor around property

High Gas Bills

Gas utility bill is higher than you'd expect

Hissing Sound

Believe it or not, gas lines are not too deep to hear

Insects Gathering

Insects like the smell of gas





Test Your Home, Protect Your Health.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

What causes radon in a house? ✕

Radon is a byproduct of uranium decay, which is found in nearly all types of soil. This gas then moves up through the ground and finds its way into structures via cracks and other holes in the foundation. Radon is then trapped inside the structure, where it gradually builds up over time, increasing radon levels and causing unsafe levels of radon exposure.

Is it okay to live in a house with radon? ✕

Yes, you can stay in a house with radon; however, the E.P.A recommends an approved radon reduction system to be put in place.

Does opening windows reduce radon? ✕

Increasing air circulation by opening windows and doors will ultimately reduce radon levels inside a structure. Radon is then diluted with the cleaner outdoor air.

The Township has 3 radon detecting kits at our office for residents of Amity Township. You must provide a Driver's License and a check (deposit) of \$200.00 that will be returned to you once the kit is returned to the office. We are open Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm.



The Senior Food Box Program supplements low-income seniors' diets with nutritious food, including non-fat dry and shelf-stable fluid milk, juice, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, dry beans, peanut butter, canned meat, poultry, fish and canned fruits and vegetables.

To participate, individuals must be at least 60 years old and meet income eligibility guidelines. A single senior's annual income may not exceed \$18,954, and the income for a couple is capped at \$25,636.

Seniors who would like to participate should call 800-468-2433 to be directed to the regional food bank distributing the Senior Food Box in their county of residence.

[Learn More!](#)

Always Accepting Donations



The Animal Rescue League of Berks County accepts gently used towels, sheets, and blankets.

The ARL can always use the following items also:

- **Canned kitten, cat, and dog food. (Non-seafood variety for kittens/cats.)**
- **Dry kitten, cat, and dog food. (Prefer Purina & Iams to avoid upset tummies.)**
- **Soft dog treats.**
- **Spray cheese and peanut butter.**
- **Cat litter.**
- **Cat toys & durable dog toys. Cardboard cat scratchers and feather wands are always appreciated. As for dogs, Kongs and snuffle mats are a few must haves.**
- **Bleach and laundry detergent. (High efficiency preferred.)**
- **Puppy pads.**
- **Paper towels.**
- **Baby wipes.**
- **Dawn dish soap.**
- **Food and water bowls.**

ARL Amazon Wishlist



Amazon Smile

You can add Safety Net Sanctuary as your Amazon Smile Charity by simply selecting us!
Please consider making your purchases count and choose us today!

Safety Net Sanctuary will be Amity Township's animal control service provider in 2024. Help show them some support by donating today.

Donate Here!

Scholarship Opportunities

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 OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS IS JANUARY 26, 2024!

The Local Government Achievement Scholarship

Awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding **citizenship through commendable public service and community involvement.**

The Academic Achievement Scholarship

Awarded to students who demonstrate enthusiasm toward **education by maintaining high academic standards.**



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 obtain the provided QR Code or visit psats.org/scholarship to begin the application process. The deadline to apply for other scholarships is January 26, 2024. For more information, email Scholarship Program Coordinator Katie Lizzo at klizzo@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!](#)



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!](#)

Storm Water Management



The Difference Between a Detention and a Retention Basin

A detention basin/pond temporarily stores storm water runoff. The basin is designed to manage storm water runoff by storing it and releasing it gradually until completely drained.

Unlike a detention basin, a retention basin or pond is designed to permanently hold water. Retention basins are commonly used when the groundwater is near the surface of the ground. A retention basin will not have an outlet structure. The water collected by a retention basin will either infiltrate into the ground or evaporate.

The advantage of a retention basin over a detention basin is the higher removal of pollutants. Retention basins can also serve as an aesthetic or recreational amenity, as well as a habitat for some wildlife. They will become their own ecosystem.

Who is Responsible for Detention/Retention Basin Maintenance?

While we are all responsible for protecting the quality of our water, you, as the property owner, homeowners' association or business are most likely responsible for maintaining storm water management facilities on your property.



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

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

Tuesday, January 16th at 7:00PM - Park & Recreation

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

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

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

Amity Township Board of Supervisors

Kim McGrath, Chairperson / Dave Hackett, Vice Chair

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



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