



Plumstead Township

NEWSLETTER



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Hanusey Park Update

It was just 4 years ago that the Joseph E. Hanusey III Community Park was completed and dedicated. This park has become a premier recreational facility for residents, visitors and organized sports associations.

For our residents unfamiliar with the park; it is comprised of 48 acres, half of which is woodlands and includes a community building where various classes are held, public restrooms, a pavilion and extensive walking trails around the athletic fields.

Since the park's dedication the Township has constructed a pedestrian path along Gordon Road, providing residents of Patriots Ridge safe pedestrian access to the park. An irrigation system was installed under one of the soccer fields, with the large baseball field next on the list. This year we replaced the wood chips in the tot lot area with a solid fall attenuation surface, sodding the area around it.

We've heard your requests and are in the process of ordering a swing set, which will be installed next spring. A similar surface for underneath the swing set is included in the 2019 budget.

The park was also the site of two "movie nights" and the Police Department's second "law enforcement night". The park served as a beautiful setting for these events and continues to be an asset to the Township and its residents.



Township Hours, Phone Numbers and Upcoming Events	3
Save the Date	3
Committees.....	4
Public Works Department.....	5
Plumstead Water Department	6
Plumstead Township Police.....	7

WHAT'S INSIDE

Government.....	7
Law Enforcement Night.....	8-9
Emergency Services.....	10
Events and Other Information.....	11-12
Plumstead Township's Annual Tree Lighting	13

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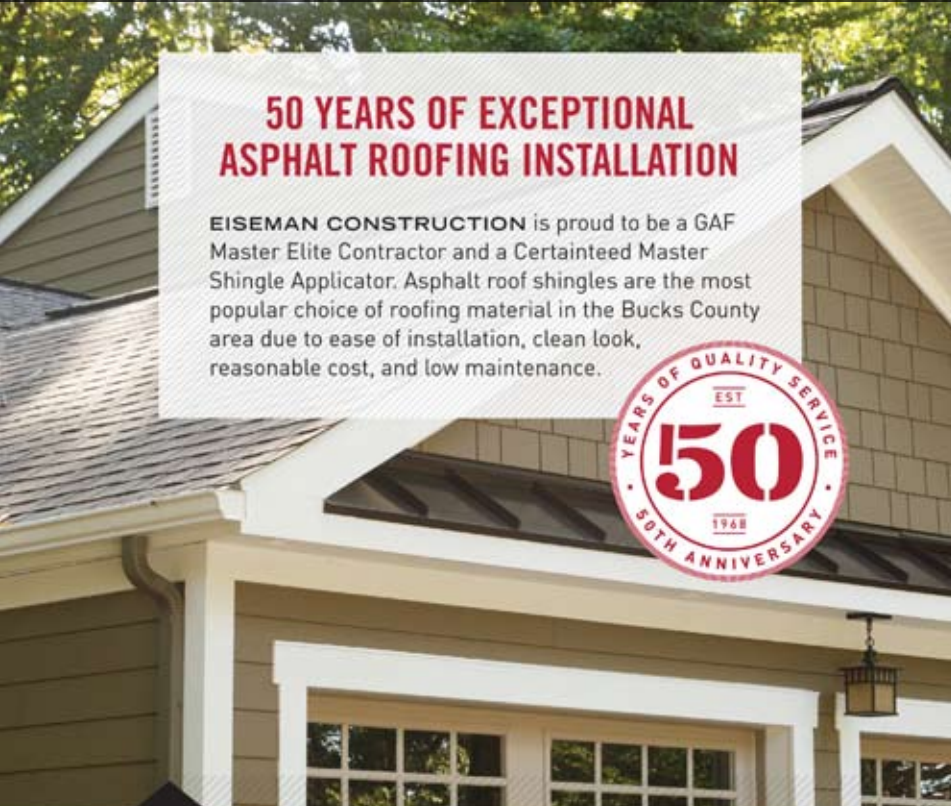
Monday - Thursday: 11:00am - 10:00pm

Friday & Saturday: 11:00am - 11:00pm

Sunday: 12:00 noon - 10:00pm

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Plumstead Township Information

Contact Information

Township Office

5186 Stump Road, P.O. Box 387, Plumsteadville, PA 18949-0387
Telephone: 215-766-8914 • Fax: 215-766-9831 • www.plumstead.org
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Police Department

Office: 215-766-8741 • Dispatch: 215-766-8740 • Fax: 215-766-8509
For EMERGENCY Dial 911
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM or by appointment

Floyd S. Bryan Public Works Center

Office: 215-766-0189 • Fax: 215-766-1439
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Tax Collector

6162 German Road, P.O. Box 433, Plumstead, PA 18949
Telephone: 215-766-3785 • Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Water Department

Billing Questions: 215-766-0189 • Repairs & Maintenance: 215-766-0189

For after hours service disruption or non-emergency issues of concern, please contact Police Dispatch at 215-766-8740. Identify yourself as a Plumstead Township Water Department customer. The dispatcher will contact the on-duty officer, who will then contact the on-call Public Works personnel. For Police, Fire, or Medical Emergencies: 911

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Carolyn McCreary
Assistant to Township Manager: Debbie DiAngelo
Director of Public Works: Alan Bleam
Administrative Assistant & Water Billing: Pam Gravel
Chief of Police: Duane Hasenauer
Police Dept. Administrative Assistant: Linda Barratt
Police Clerk: Steve Meredith
Finance: Jane Faunce
Accounts Receivable: Virginia Bowling
P&R Coordinator: Caitlin Johnson
Code Enforcement: Keystone Municipal Services
Zoning Officer: Keystone Municipal Services
Zoning Clerk: Kathleen Power
Receptionist: Maria Strycharski

Board of Supervisors

Chairman
Brian Trymbiski
Vice Chairman & Treasurer
Pete Busillo
Secretary
Nick Lykon
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Dan Hilferty
Member
Darren Carroll

Meetings

The **Board of Supervisors'** meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Work sessions are held on the last Thursday of the month, also at 7:30 PM.

The **Planning Commission** meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

The **Zoning Hearing Board** meets at the call of the Chairman

The **Environmental Advisory Council** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. January - April meetings held at Hanusey Park, May-December meetings held at the Township Building.

All Meetings are at the Township Building

SAVE THE DATE

- Tree Lighting at Hanusey Park12/7
- Blood Drive at Township Building (FREE shirt).....12/21
- Kickboxing Classes at Hanusey..... 1/7 – 3/11
- Yoga classes at Hanusey (AM & PM Classes) 1/8-2/26
- P&R Egg Stuffing at Hanusey.....2/23
- Blaze of Glory 5K Walk/Run3/16
- P&R Egg Hunt at Hanusey4/14
- Electronics Recycling at Hanusey4/27



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Committees

Police Explorers

Now entering into its 7th year, The Plumstead Township Police Explorers Post 5708 is continuing to expand its experiences and opportunities for the youth of the Central Bucks area. The program has provided young adults between the ages of 14-21 first hand perspective of the types of calls officers have, and are trained to respond to: traffic stops, criminal investigations, crime scene processing, interviewing skill, arrests, how the constitution applies to law enforcement activities, courtroom procedure, first aid & safety, firearm safety and more.

Cadets have been introduced to various aspects of law enforcement which include tours of the U.S. Capitol Building with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, Bucks County Justice Center with Bucks County District Attorneys, Bucks County Prison and juvenile facility, Bucks County Training Center as well as members of Synergy Project who address adult and juvenile homelessness in Bucks County.

In addition to these experiences, cadets participate in various community service activities learning the value of giving back to the community, as well as developing relationships. The Travis Manion 5K, Project Believe, Hunter's Rally and Kmart Safety Day are just a few of the programs Post 5708 has participated in.

Three years ago, The Post created a scholarship fund in honor of Joseph E. Hanusey III. The scholarship is open to cadets of the program as well as any student of the Central Bucks School District interested in pursuing a degree in law enforcement. From the experiences the cadets engage in they become eligible to earn merit awards similar to the one earned by police officers for their actions in service to the communities they serve.

As we prepare to move into the New Year the program will be adding another wrinkle to the cadet experience, SIMs (more commonly known as simunition). SIMs firearms, simunition rounds and protective gear has been provided through the generosity of Whitetails Unlimited, who support law enforcement efforts to train, teach and promote hunter/firearm safety as well as enforce all state game laws. This equipment will enable our program to provide safe and realistic experiences for the cadets while participated in traffic stops, criminal investigations, room/building clearing and more, under the direct supervision specially trained officers.

We thank the community for your support and if anyone has any interest in our explorer program or our scholarship program please contact Ofc. Joe Lastowka (jlastowka@plumstead.gov) or Ofc. Tom Rutecki (trutecki@plumstead.gov) 215-766-8741.



Plumstead Historical Society

Plumstead Historical Society invites you to come join us in support of the preservation of our township history.

Trivia Question – What famous composer lived at this farm just outside of Doylestown?



Answer-Oscar Hammerstein lived at Highland Farm from 1940 to 1960. For more information or donate visit www.hammersteincenter.org

Upcoming Winter 2018 Meetings dates

Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 16 Annual Potluck Picnic

Meetings held 3rd Monday of every month except August and December. We have great programs and speakers every month. Check our website or Facebook for Program Subjects.

All are welcome; you don't have to be a member to attend! Feel free to bring family or friends to this and any event or meeting.

Do you want to be a member? To join the Plumstead Historical Society it's just \$10 for individuals or \$15 for family mail to the P.O. Box 172, Plumsteadville, PA 18949.

Do you have historic items to donate? (Pictures, letters, stories, local tools or books, research on a property or family, etc), please contact us. We now have climate controlled storage to archive and protect our growing collection of historic items.

Do you need a great gift idea? We have a collection of 10 different postcards split between 2 packs of 5 postcards. Each pack sells for \$5.00 (\$1 per post card). The collection is available for purchase at our meetings and makes great holiday gifts.

If you should have any questions or an interesting story to share, please contact us at info@plumsteadhistoricalsociety.org.

Departments

Public Works Department



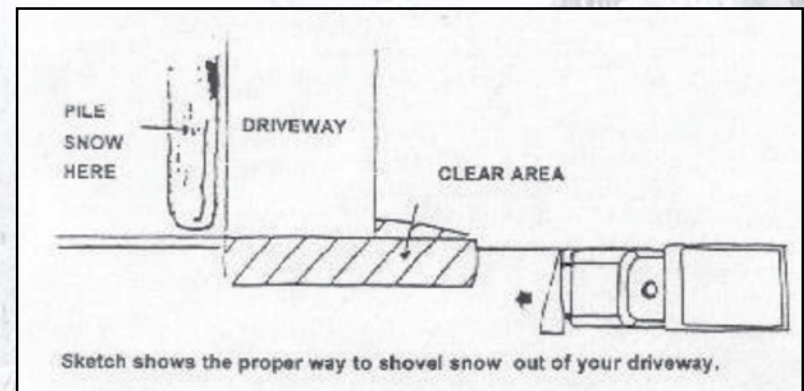
Have you seen this sign?

Residents along ALL township maintained roads are reminded that parking during a winter storm is limited based on the provisions set forth in Ordinance #2003-03. Parking is prohibited following the accumulation of one inch or more of snow or ice. Vehicles in violation of this ordinance are subject to towing and storage costs.

Each year, the township openly solicits local towing firms for a set cost to remove and store vehicles in violation of the ordinance. This information is posted on the township website for reference. Residents are reminded to make guests and visitors to their home aware of this ordinance. It would also be helpful if you could pass this information along to a new owner when selling a home.

Snow Shoveling Tips

- After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway or sidewalk only to have it plowed in?
- Public Works suggests that you wait until the street is cleared before you shovel the last five feet of your driveway or your sidewalk.
- Always clear an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram to the right) to give the snow on the blade of the plow a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. This way you won't have to do the same job twice.
- Public Works also reminds you that it is illegal to push snow from a parking lot or driveway onto a township roadway; this applies to businesses, residents and contractors hired to remove snow on private property.



Winterizing your mailbox

- Public Works and the U.S. Postal Service are both expected to deliver during the winter season... come rain, sleet, snow, or all of the above. The location of your mailbox along the roadway can affect the efficiency of both mail service and snow plowing operations.
- Where is your mailbox located? Your letter carrier will make every effort to deliver the mail. However, if the mailbox is not accessible to the carrier due to snow buildup, or if it is not properly located along the road, you may have to pick up your mail at the post office.
- Plumstead Township allows property owners to place mailboxes within the township legal right-of-way, out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery; however, mailbox damage is the responsibility of the property owner.
- Normally, if a mailbox is placed as far from the shoulder of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle and the mailbox rests on a firm support, the mailbox should be able to withstand the force of snow from the plowing operation. Be sure your mailbox has a strong support. You also may wish to use reflective tape or other material to make the mailbox easier to see during storms or during dark hours.
- Plowing operations can push snow against or in front of mailboxes, limiting access and perhaps causing damage to supports.
- Check your mailbox and support often, clearing snow from it and depositing the snow properly (**never shovel snow onto the road**).

Departments

Plumstead Water Department

Ever wonder how your drinking water gets to the tap?

Potable water is provided to customers from ground water wells across the township. Most notable is the high, naturally occurring, mineral content (hardness) that can cause a light discoloration and sediment build up. The township addresses this concern by flushing the system through fire hydrants at least annually.

From time to time, we receive calls about "cloudy" water. In most all cases, this is simply air in the water. If you fill a clear glass from your tap and see cloudiness, let the glass sit for several minutes and the air will dissipate. You will know it was air even if you were to take a spoon and quickly stir the water in the glass. The water should remain clear. Air can enter the home plumbing through malfunctioning equipment or leaks.

In almost every situation, when we receive a call regarding low or no pressure, it is likely caused by something within the home. In rare cases such as a fire, or in extreme, a main break, a whole house filter, specialized water treatment equipment, or a malfunctioning water softener is the likely cause.

Each of these appliances requires some level of service on a regular basis. Malfunctions include filters not being changed at regular intervals and are a common cause for quality issues and excessive use.

A malfunctioning water softener that was installed and had never been serviced was the recent cause for an extremely high water bill. Thousands of gallons of water went "down the drain" and had to be paid for by the customer. Please consult owner's manuals and reputable service companies for more information on the proper management of these appliances. Adding salt and allowing the unit to automatically backwash are not the only things that need to be done to a water softener.

Finally, you can check your water usage by simply monitoring the water meter in your home. At a quiet time when no use is occurring, stand at your water meter. The numbers/dial should not be moving. If it is, you may have a toilet leaking or other appliance allowing water to flow freely. You can read your own meter on a daily, weekly or monthly basis and calculate your usage to see if you believe it to be within a normal range.

We have a responsibility to provide clean, safe water, and we do. While we cannot offer specific advice, we hope that these few general topics will be seriously considered as a part of your normal home maintenance and care.

Reminder for Plumstead Township Public Water Customers

Plumstead Township water service accounts are billed four times a year; January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Payments are due 30 days after the billing date.

Plumstead Township charges customers for water coming into your home. Bucks County Water & Sewer charges for waste water (sewer), water discharged from your home. Plumstead Township and Bucks County Water & Sewer are two separate entities with different billing cycles.

Water payments can be made by mail to Plumstead Township, PO Box 387, Plumsteadville, PA 18949. They can also be made in person at the Township Building, located at 5186 Stump Road. For your convenience, there is also a payment mail box on the driveway, which is emptied regularly. Credit Card payments can be made in person at the Township building or through our website www.plumstead.org. You can utilize the Water Payment Web Portal by choosing the "Pay/View Water Bill" tab on our website to register and access your account. This site allows you to manage your account, register for EBilling, print an invoice, view your payments and account history and pay your water bill with a credit card if you desire. Please keep in mind if you choose to pay your bill online there is a service charge.

You may contact the Public Works Department at 215-766-0189 with any billing questions or the Administrative Office at 215-766-8914 x203 with any payment questions.

If there is a leak at the water meter, please report it immediately. Monday - Friday between the hours of 7:30 - 4:00, please call 215-766-0189. At any other time, please call Police Dispatch at 215-766-8740 and identify yourself as a Plumstead Township Water department customer. The dispatcher will contact the on-call Public Works personnel.

Plumstead Township currently has just under 2500 water customers. Our systems operate on ground water wells and are maintained to current PA Department of Environmental Protection standards and requirements. We have a state licensed sub-contractor performing all of the required and regulated daily operations to ensure the safety and quality of the water delivered.

Items include:

- Daily manual checks of the well operations for quantity and quality of supply
- Daily data entry, coupled with electronic monitoring to comply with the required record keeping and testing parameters for monthly and annual reporting to state and federal regulatory agencies
- Manual checks on chemical feed (chlorine for sanitization) pumps and components
- Manual checks of safety and operational awareness components
- For more information on the responsibilities for service, repair & replacement please see our website under the water page

System safety and quality are the key daily operational tasks carried out in our service to our customers.

Departments

Plumstead Township Police

Plumstead Township Police

Presents

Shop with a Cop!



Plumstead Township Police Department is preparing for their second **SHOP WITH A COP!**

SHOP WITH A COP is a national program pairing police officers with children to afford them a better Christmas. This program is geared toward Plumstead Township children at the elementary school level. These children are faced with life challenges such as a parent losing a job, homelessness, military deployment, economic shortcomings, and other hardships.

SHOP WITH A COP is funded through generous donations in our community from private sponsors, local businesses, and residents. Each child is allotted a monetary gift card to purchase gifts for themselves and family members to allow for an enjoyable holiday.

We hope you'll join us in supporting this cause during the joyous holiday season!

Visit the *Parks and Rec* website for a donation form.
www.plumsteadparkandrec.org

Thank you.

DONATIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 1st 2018.



IT'S THE LAW!



Under Section 4524 of the PA Motor Vehicle Code, you can be issued a traffic citation if your windshield, side or rear windows are obstructed by ice or snow. Under Section 3720 you can be issued a citation between \$200 - \$1000 if ice or snow falls from the roof of your vehicle, causing death or serious bodily injury to another motorist or pedestrian.

Government

Representative Marguerite Quinn

Landmark Domestic Violence Prevention Bill Headed to Governor

By Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R-Bucks)

As I write this column, landmark legislation that seeks to better protect victims of domestic violence is on the governor's desk for his signature.

House Bill 2060 earned decisive votes in both the House (131-62) and Senate (43-5). This legislation is the first bill to directly address firearms in domestic violence situations in decades.

Further, this legislation is simply a responsible way for proven abusers to relinquish their firearms so that more people don't tragically die from senseless violence. With the help of advocates for victims, community groups and law enforcement, this critical piece of legislation will shortly become law, and it will save lives.

It's imperative to note this legislation will not impact any law-abiding gun owner. In order to be required to relinquish firearms, the person either has to be convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence -- like assault or terroristic threats against a spouse or child -- or have a final Protection From Abuse order (PFA) entered against the person. A misdemeanor crime of domestic violence requires a finding of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. A final PFA order must be issued by a judge, after a hearing at which evidence is presented and witnesses can be called. In this way, House Bill 2060 ensures that due process is provided to all defendants.

Relinquishment, in the case of a PFA order, ends when the order expires or when the order is withdrawn. A final PFA order cannot exceed three years.

Also, House Bill 2060 would permit, in the case of a final PFA order, relinquishment of firearms to the sheriff, a licensed firearms dealer, the Pennsylvania State Police or municipal police. The Protection From Abuse Act currently only allows relinquishment to the sheriff or a licensed firearms dealer.

In terms of a conviction for a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, the bill permits relinquishment to the Pennsylvania State Police or the municipal police. Under current law with respect to a conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, relinquishment must occur within 60 days. My bill shortens that period to 24 hours. Currently, the Protection From Abuse Act requires relinquishment within 24 hours, with exceptions for cause shown. House Bill 2060 does not change the 24-hour requirement under the Protection From Abuse Act. Rather, it makes the period of relinquishment the same (24 hours, except for cause shown) whether the person is subject to a final PFA order or has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

My bill also addresses the so-called third-party safekeeper provisions. Currently, a defendant can turn over firearms to family members or friends. Under the bill, a defendant may only turn over firearms to a commercial armory or to an attorney with whom the defendant has an attorney-client relationship. News reports indicate that some defendants would prematurely take their weapons back from friends and family and then shoot their spouses or children and then kill themselves. Often, police officers are killed in these incidents. House Bill 2060 is designed to stop this loss of life by only permitting commercial armories or an attorney to hold the firearms as third-party safekeepers.

I thank my colleagues in the House and in the Senate for supporting me in my efforts to pass this.

Law Enforcement

On August 29th Plumstead Township Police hosted their second 'Law Enforcement Night' at Hanusey Park! The event featured our police department along with officers from surrounding departments and agencies.

The event allows the community to meet officers, explore equipment and vehicles, and to get a feeling for different aspects of the job of a police officer. Attendees also got to watch K-9 demonstrations in the baseball field and see the State Police helicopter land and take off.

This event would not be a success without all the help of our volunteers who donated their time and the businesses who donated food and goods. Thank you to everyone who helped in one way or another and to all the police departments and agencies who sent representatives to the event.

And a special thank you to all our residents and members of the community who braved the heat and helped to make this event another success! We look forward to continuing to bring this event to our community in the future.



ement Night



Emergency Services

Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company

For the 13th year running, The Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company is proud to host a community 5k road race and fun run which is known as one of the biggest community events in the area. **As the first race in the Bucks 5k Series (www.Bucks5kseries.com) the proceeds from the Plumsteadville Blaze of Glory 5k and will go to support the volunteer efforts of the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company.**

This year's race is on Saturday March 16, 2019

Several of our volunteer fire fighters will be running in the 5k race in full fire fighter gear. As a fundraiser two of our runners will be running the race breathing air from an air pack. You can sponsor these runners at \$1 per tenth of a mile they run to encourage them and urge them on!

The Plumsteadville Fire Department is 100% volunteer covering parts of Plumstead and Bedminster Townships as well as supporting all surrounding fire departments as mutual aid. The volunteer members run on average 325 emergency calls per year that range from house fires, auto accidents/extrications, domestic rescues, brush fires, carbon monoxide and fire alarms and much more.

The budget of the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company is 52% funded by Plumstead and Bedminster Townships. The remaining 48% is raised by our members through fundraising events and donations. Money raised goes towards much needed safety equipment. For example, to outfit a single firefighter with basic safety gear will cost over \$3,500.00. This cost does not include the cost of an air pack which is an additional expense of \$6,500.00. Replacing a fire truck can cost between \$350,000 and \$500,000.

We hope to see you on race day Saturday March 16, 2019. For information please visit blazeofglory5k.com or our Facebook page.

Point Pleasant Fire Company

FIRE SAFETY TIP

DISCARD FIREPLACE ASHES PROPERLY

Every year fire departments in the Bucks County area have responded to house fires caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes. Our personnel have responded to multiple fires over the past few winter's caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes.

FACT: Many people don't realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to reignite and start a fire for many days after the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

BE SAFE: Treat ALL ashes and coals as HOT ashes, even when you think they had time enough to cool. Take care to dispose of them wisely. Your house, deck or garage are unsafe locations for storing ashes while they cool and have been the site of many recent and devastating fires both locally and nationally. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside and at least 10 feet from your home or nearby buildings.

Follow these simple fire safety tips:

- Clean and inspect your chimney at least once a year and again after every cord of wood burned.
- Do not discard your ashes into any combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.
- Do not place ash containers on decks, porches or in garages.
- Put ashes into a non-combustible metal container with a lid.
- Pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.
- Keep your can OUTSIDE the home, away from your fireplace or stove and anything combustible.
- Teach all family members to be safe with ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.

Plumstead Township Emergency Management

When Seconds Count...



After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.



Plumstead Township Emergency Management
[Facebook.com/PlumsteadEMA](https://www.facebook.com/PlumsteadEMA)


Events and Other Information

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Plumstead Township will be hosting our annual collection for the Bucks County Children and Youth again this fall.

The donations will be divided between two programs:


The PJ Program & The Giving Tree


The PJ Program

- Year round!
- PJs, slippers, robes, & books can be donated

The Giving Tree

- 11/1/18 - 12/16/18
- Hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves can be donated




Plumstead Township also accepts donations year round for the food pantry!

All donations must be *new*
All donations will stay local



Stop by the Township building to drop off your donations!
 Thank you in advance for your support.

Events and Other Information

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW?

When traveling north on Rt. 611 Plumstead Township is the last community to provide 24/7 Police coverage until you get to Easton.

DID YOU KNOW?

Plumstead Township is home to TWO volunteer fire companies and an EMS squad that provides basic and advanced life support.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Public Works staff maintains 71 miles of roadway in our Township, and PENNDOT is responsible for 41 miles of state roads within our boundaries. A listing of roads can be found here.

<http://www.plumstead.org/publicworks/townshiproads.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Code Enforcement Department processed 582 permit applications in 2017.

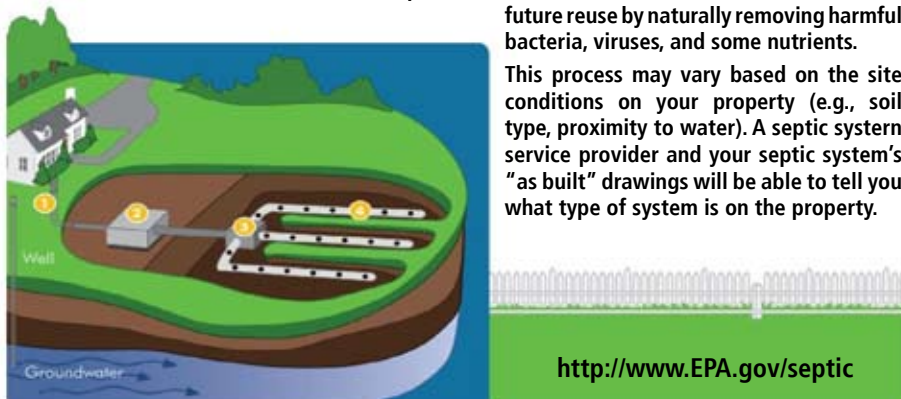
DID YOU KNOW?

Agendas for the Board of Supervisors public meetings can be found on the Township website along with materials for the upcoming meetings.

How does a septic system work?

1. All water runs out of your house from one main drainage pipe into a septic tank.
2. The septic tank is a buried, water-tight container. It's job is to hold the wastewater long enough for solids to settle to the bottom (sludge) while the fats, oil and grease float to the top (scum).
3. For conventional septic systems, liquid wastewater exits the tank and is spread evenly throughout the drainfield, usually through a distribution box. Systems with more advanced treatment may have an additional component between the septic tank and drain field.
4. Once in the drain field, the wastewater percolates into the soil, which reclaims the water for future reuse by naturally removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and some nutrients.

This process may vary based on the site conditions on your property (e.g., soil type, proximity to water). A septic system service provider and your septic system's "as built" drawings will be able to tell you what type of system is on the property.



<http://www.EPA.gov/septic>

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES IN PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP!

Abraxsys Corp .

6161 Kellers Church Road

Stars Dance Studio

5870 Easton Road

360 Degrees Details LLC.

5824 Easton Road

How Can I Be a Good Stormwater Neighbor?

It is important to realize that activities on your property can adversely affect your neighbor's property, because water does not follow property boundaries.

Have you ever discussed stormwater with your neighbor or wondered how to be a better stormwater neighbor? Neighbor disputes over stormwater are very common. Water does not follow property boundaries and there are often instances where water flows from one property onto another and causes damage. It is important to realize that activities on your own property can adversely affect your neighbor's property.

The first thing to do as a responsible neighbor is to familiarize yourself with how stormwater flows on your property. Ask yourself how does water enter and exit my property? Are there areas of concentrated flow currently causing damage to your property or adjacent neighboring property? If so, flows can be re-directed to vegetated areas for infiltration. You can also install a rain barrel, cistern, rain garden or dry well as needed to control run-off.

When installing best management practices (or BMP's) do not direct stormwater flows onto a neighboring property and do not block stormwater from leaving your neighbor's property. Stabilize disturbed area and maintain lawns, driveways and gardens to prevent erosion and sedimentation on your own and on other peoples' properties. Changes from building and land development activities can alter natural flow of surface and stormwater. It is important to recognize that grading and re-grading can change how water moves across the land. It is essential to leave natural drainage paths undisturbed when possible and never intentionally concentrate stormwater flows.

If you live near a stream, pond or stormwater drain you can plant a riparian buffer or establish a "grow zone" along the waterbody to allow pollutants to be filtered before reaching the water. This will help prevent erosion on your property. Also, do not compost yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings or mulch into or near a stream or stormwater drain. Clean up trash, litter and other debris that may clog a drain or small stream that could potentially cause flooding or pollution from water run-off.

If you find yourself in a dispute with a neighboring property owner over stormwater issues remember: Open communication and cooperation can prevent stormwater issues and help resolve existing stormwater problems, if you have questions about local stormwater regulations, contact your municipality. It is important to take steps to protect natural water courses, infiltration areas and drainage paths. Be mindful of how your actions can affect adjacent landowners and take steps to prevent damage not only on your own property but also on your neighbor's property.

If you have additional questions about stormwater, or you are just interested in learning more, you can find a full series of videos and articles in the Penn State Extension Stormwater Basics series.

Author: Heather McKean, Former Extension Educator, Water Quality Penn State University

www.extenstion.psu.edu

Source: Perkasio Borough

Events and Other Information

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