



# Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive, Reading, PA 19605



Spring/Summer 2022

## Township information Board of Supervisors

**Chairman**  
Gary Hadden

**Vice Chairman**  
Joshua Steingraber

**Supervisor**  
Rudy Schmehl

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Kim Y. Berger, Dial 1

**Water/Sewer Department**  
Kelly Burdick, Dial 4  
Email: [otws@comcast.net](mailto:otws@comcast.net)

**Tax Collector**  
Sharon Sweigert  
610-926-4240 press 3

**Office number:**  
610-926-4240

**Fax number:**  
610-926-5476

**Address:**  
35 Ontelaunee Drive,  
Reading, PA 19605

**Email :**  
[ontelauneetownship@comcast.net](mailto:ontelauneetownship@comcast.net)

**Website:**  
[www.ontelauneetwp.net](http://www.ontelauneetwp.net)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Meeting Schedules**  
*all meetings are open to the public and  
held at the township building*

**Board of Supervisors**  
1st Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission**  
3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Please note the Township has a new Tax Collector.  
**Sharon Sweigert**



Phone number – 610-926-4240 press 3

Mail payments to 35 Ontelaunee Drive, Reading, PA 19605

Make checks payable to Sharon Sweigert, Ontelaunee Twp.

Tax Collector

Do not pay taxes thru Xpress Bill pay.

**Normal office hours are on  
Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment**

**SITTING DATES 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON AT THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING  
APRIL 18, 19, 22, 25, 26 AND 29**

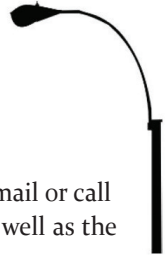


## NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Spring fire hydrant flushing will be taking place April 4 through April 8 during the hours of 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Water customers may experience cloudy or discolored water as a result. If this occurs, customers are asked to run water for a few minutes until it clears. The water is safe for all uses and consumption

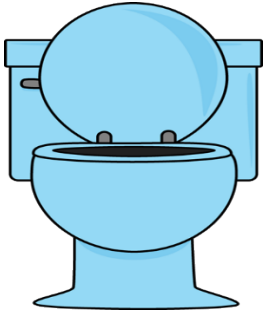
## Report Street Lights Out

If you have a street light out that you would like to report, please email or call the Township office to report it. Please have the full pole number as well as the approximate address for accurate reporting.



**Please welcome our two new Supervisors  
Josh Steingraber and Rudy Schmehl.  
Please also welcome our new Tax Collector Sharon Sweigert.**





**ONTELAUNEE TOWNSHIP**  
**WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT**



OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Telephone: 610-926-4240 - Dial 4  
Email: [otws@comcast.net](mailto:otws@comcast.net)

**\*\*\*\*EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS\*\*\*\***

**In the event of an emergency, we utilize Swift Reach 911 call out service to inform our customers of any incidents which would affect our sewer or water customers. If you have not signed up for notifications, please send us an email with your name, telephone number, and property address.**

**WATER METERS:**



Please note that it is your responsibility to keep the area to, in, and around the meter free of obstacles and encumbrances to permit safe and speedy access to the meter. As warmer weather approaches and you begin landscaping, do not cover the meter pit lid with rocks, mulch, flowers, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

PAY YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILLS ONLINE THROUGH  
[WWW.XPRESSBILLPAY.COM](http://WWW.XPRESSBILLPAY.COM).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES SETTING UP YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT, PLEASE CALL XPRESS BILL PAY AND SPEAK WITH A CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. (800) 766-2350

**SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS  
STATEMENTS TODAY!!!**







## ARE BATH BOMBS SAFE FOR YOUR PLUMBING?

Do you use bath bombs after a stressful day? Have you ever heard that bath bombs can be bad for your plumbing? Unfortunately, it's true: bath bombs can cause clogs in your drains, unless a few precautions are taken. Knowing the danger of using bath bombs and what you can do to prevent problems can help you take care of your bathtub drains.

### NICE

Bath bombs are a scented, fizzy bath salt designed to dissolve in your tub and relax your muscles. Upon placing bath bombs in a bathtub full of warm water, your bathroom will start to smell like flowers or perfume and the water will fizz around your body. Bath bombs are great after a hard day at work or after a stressful day at school. They also make excellent gifts.

### NAUGHTY

Bath bombs are made up of a variety of materials that are not always good for your bathtub. Some of the problems you might encounter include:

- **Sometimes the salts don't dissolve.** Partially dissolved bath salts will clog your drains. A few undissolved chunks can become caught in the drain, which will then catch on hair and other pieces of debris.
- **Oils can clog your drains.** You've probably heard that it's a bad idea to flush oil down the drain. This is totally true! Oils will congeal when cold, leading to clogs.
- **Sometimes bath bombs contain more than oils and salts.** Some fancy types of bath bombs will contain undissolvable pieces like flower petals, confetti, glitter and more. These little pieces look cool when floating around in the bathtub, but they can clog your drain.

In the case of a hot tub, bath bombs can do more than just a little damage. Bath bombs can destroy the functionality of your hot tub in just a few uses. Small pieces found inside bath bombs can destroy the jets and cause devastating clogs.

---

## 20 THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER PUT DOWN THE DRAIN

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>1. Pasta</i>          | <i>11. Stickers</i>  |
| <i>2. Rice</i>           | <i>12. Paint</i>   |
| <i>3. Egg shells</i>     | <i>13. Sanitary towels</i>   |
| <i>4. Coffee grounds</i> | <i>14. Paper towels</i>  |
| <i>5. Cooking oil</i>    | <i>15. Cotton balls</i>  |
| <i>6. Motor oil</i>      | <i>16. Cleaning solutions</i>  |
| <i>7. Grease</i>         | <i>17. Medicines</i>   |
| <i>8. Cooking fat</i>    | <i>18. Fruit Pits</i>  |
| <i>9. Food fat</i>       | <i>19. Bones</i>   |
| <i>10. Animal Feces</i>  | <i>20. Wipes – of any kind even if they are noted as “flushable”</i> |





## Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement



**Zoning officer hours:**

**Monday and Wednesdays – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



As the warm weather approaches and we begin to consider summer backyard projects please be reminded that the Uniformed Construction Code (section 403.62) states ANY/ALL prefabricated swimming pools greater than twenty-four (24) inches in height require a Building Permit to be issued. Additionally, a Certificate of Occupancy must be obtained by the home owner **prior to the use of the pool.**

These requirements are for **ANY/ALL** swimming pools regardless of whether they are purchased from a big box store or installed by a pool contractor.

Permits are available either at the Township Building or at [www.kraftcodeservices.com](http://www.kraftcodeservices.com). Once completed, the permit application should be submitted at the Township building along with the required \$50 non-refundable application fee payable to Ontelaunee Township.

Please contact Kraft Code Services at **610.775.7185** with any further questions.

Also, please note that a lot of things that you do around your home may or may not require a permit. Before any work is started, please check with the township office if a permit is required.

In most cases a permit is required for, but not limited to additions, decks, fences, pools, renovations, signs, driveway paving, concrete, roofing, electrical and plumbing work.

Our Building Inspector/Code Enforcement is handled by Kraft Code Services.

Please visit their website at [www.kraftcodeservices.com](http://www.kraftcodeservices.com) to obtain permit applications.

Please submit your completed application with the application fee of \$50 for residential applications and \$150 for commercial applications to the township office. The application fee will be deducted from the permit fee.



**Please note that our mailbox/afterhours drop box is located outside of the front doors of the Township Building. You may drop off payments at any time, just be sure it is received on or before the due date.**

## Dog Leash/Fecal Matter

**All dogs must be restrained on any street or sidewalk.**

**All fecal matter deposited by dogs must be cleaned up immediately.**



## Recreation

**We have a pavilion available for use in the Willow Glen Development.**

**Please contact Kim at the Township Office for more information.  
610-926-4240 ext. 200**







The YMCA of Reading & Berks County (Tri Valley Branch) will be offering the summer program at the Ontelaunee Playground this summer in the Willow Glen development. It will be an 8-week program Monday through Friday beginning June 20 and ending August 12 from 9 am-1 pm. For more information and registration for the program please be sure to check the website [ymcarbc.org](http://ymcarbc.org) or follow the Tri Valley YMCA Facebook Page.

## Recycling Information



Ontelaunee Township offers free Single Stream Recycling to our residents. Single Stream Recycling allows participants to place their recyclables in one container without sorting or separate bins.

The single stream dumpster is located behind the Township Building. Residents are welcome to drop their recyclables from dawn to dusk seven days a week. The area is monitored by security cameras. The Township does not provide pick-up or recycling containers.

### Acceptable:

Aluminum cans, glass food & beverage containers (brown, green & clear), plastics (#1 thru #7), paper and cardboard. - In order to use all the space in the dumpster please smash or crush your plastic and cardboard.

### Not Acceptable:

Pots, pans, aluminum foil, ceramic oven-ware, drinking glasses, window glass, mirror glass, light bulbs, Styrofoam, clay pots, plastic bags, foil type paper, paper towels, tissue paper.

**Yard Waste** – Tree, shrubbery clippings may be taken to Berks Soil and Stone at 1 Belleman's Church Road, Leesport for recycling. 484-277-7901



**Don't forget  
Weeds/Grass must be maintained below  
10" in height.**

**GRASS CLIPPINGS MUST GO OUT WITH YOUR TRASH**

While mowing your lawn, no grass clippings or garden waste shall be deposited on any public property, sidewalk or street. This is a violation of our ordinance and is hazardous to motor-cycle drivers, it is like driving on ice. In addition, the grass will flow into the storm drains when it rains and creates clogging of the drains.





# MS<sub>4</sub> – STORM WATER

## The supervisors will have a special presentation regarding Stormwater on August 4, 2022 at 7 p.m.

### MS<sub>4</sub> & Storm Water Management

What is MS<sub>4</sub>? Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS<sub>4</sub>s), from which it is often discharged untreated into local waterbodies. To prevent harmful pollutants from being washed or dumped into an MS<sub>4</sub>, operators must obtain a NPDES permit and develop a stormwater management program. [Read More](#)

### Pollutant Collection

Stormwater runoff from snowmelt or rain can pick up pollutants such as motor oil, lawn chemicals, and pet waste before entering streams untreated. The large amount of untreated water entering the storm sewer system, and eventually our streams, has lasting health, safety, environmental and economic impacts on our community. Fortunately, there are many things that property owners, can do to put stormwater to good use while reducing the amount of runoff that ends up in local waterways. Here are some tips on how you can help:

- Install rain barrels in gardens. Learn the benefits by visiting the [Berks County Conservation District website](#).
- Never discard trash, grass clippings, leaves or any other yard waste down storm drains or in the street.
- Pickup and dispose of pet waste properly.
- Wash your car at a professional car wash which filters the wastewater or wash your car in a grassy area so that runoff benefits the lawn. Do not wash cars on driveways or in the street.
- When applying fertilizers, follow manufacturer's instructions and never apply before rain or watering the lawn.
- Do not change your vehicle oil on the street or driveway. Instead use a professional mechanic which will eliminate any risk of street contamination.
- Use native plants because they increase water filtration, decrease maintenance and perform better in drought conditions.

Implementing these measures will help keep Ontelaunee Township's waterways clean. Remember your actions can positively benefit the welfare of our community.





# Northern Berks Regional Police Department

*Serving the residents of Maiden creek Township, Ontelaunee Township, and Leesport Borough*

## Contact Information

Northern Berks Regional Police Dept.  
37 Ontelaunee Drive, Reading, PA 19605

Office: (610)926-2999  
Fax: (610)926-0309

Records office hours between  
8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday-Friday

The Northern Berks Regional Police Department is excited to announce that we will be celebrating National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2nd at 6 pm at the Schuylkill Valley High School. Be sure to watch for more information on our FaceBook page as we get closer to the event. Anyone wishing to participate or make donations can contact us at: [NBRPD-NNO@nbrpd.org](mailto:NBRPD-NNO@nbrpd.org). Save the Date!



Body worn cameras and in-car cameras for our Officers have been ordered and should be deployed in June. Some of the expenses for these cameras will be covered courtesy of Berks County District Attorney John Adams. We are thankful for the continued partnership with the DAs Office.

Finally, with warmer weather approaching, we would like to remind everyone to drive safely, and especially don't drive after drinking or taking prescription medicine (including medical marijuana).



## Union Fire Company #1 of Leesport

18 East Wall Street

P.O. Box 777

Leesport, PA 19533

610-926-4090 (station)

[leesportfire37@comcast.net](mailto:leesportfire37@comcast.net) (email)

[Leesportfirecompany37.com](http://Leesportfirecompany37.com) (website)



The members of Leesport Fire Co. would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents and officials of Ontelaunee Township for their support. We invite anyone that would like to learn more about what we do to stop by the fire company any Tuesday evening. Please check out our website or Facebook page for upcoming events or to schedule a visit. We are always looking for new members for emergency or non-emergency positions.

Kenneth Quell Chief





## Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive,  
Reading, PA 19605

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

### Outdoor Lightning Safety

There is **NO** safe place outside when there is lightning, but these actions may slightly reduce your risk of being struck:

- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill, or a ridge top
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects
- Stay away from conductors of electricity like water, wet items, and metal objects such as fences

National Weather Service Goodland, Kansas Lightning Safety Awareness Week 2020

- If you hear thunder you are within striking distance of lightening. Look for shelter inside a home, building or hard topped vehicle right away.
- Do not go under trees for shelter.  
There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches and decks.