



Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive, Reading, PA 19605



Fall/Winter 2024

Township information Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors
Josh Steingraber
Charles Grebloski
Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Y. Berger - Ext. 200
ontelauneetownship@comcast.net

Water/Sewer Department
Shelly Freeman, Ext. 208
Email: otws@comcast.net

Tax Collector
Sharon Sweigert-610-926-4240 ext. 204
Email: ontelauneetc@comcast.net

Office number:
610-926-4240

Fax number:
610-926-5476

Address:
35 Ontelaunee Drive,
Reading, PA 19605

Email :
ontelauneetownship@comcast.net

Website:
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.

FALL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Will be taking place October 7th through October 11th from approximately 7:00 am - 3:00 pm. As a result, you may experience cloudy or discolored water. If this occurs, please run the water for a few minutes until it clears. The water is safe for all uses and consumption.



**NOTICE
HYDRANT
FLUSHING**



DESIGNATED TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

October 31, 2024

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

If you would like trick and treaters to stop at your home, please leave your porch light on.



PROPERTY AND SCHOOL TAXES

Taxes may only be paid by check or money order. You may not pay taxes on XpressBill pay where you pay your water/sewer bills.

**Tax Collector regular hours are Tuesdays ONLY
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment.**

WATER & SEWER INFO

**PAY YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILLS ONLINE THROUGH
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 WITH XPRESS BILL PAY

There is a convenient way to get your statements in your email, never have to worry about the postal service or your bill getting lost in the mail. You can also pay online, schedule automatic payments and view your account. For added convenience the township mailbox / afterhours drop box is conveniently located in front of the Township building. You may drop payments off at any time, just be sure they are received on or before the due date of the 1st of each month.



FLUSHABLE WIPES ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE FLUSHED

Not all moist toilet wipes are flushable. Always check the packaging to make sure they can be flushed down the toilet. Be sure they're 100% plastic-free and only made with plant-based fibers. Any amount of plastic in a wet wipe can cause clogs in sewage systems.

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 at 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.

Leaves, brush and limb recycling Berks Soil and Stone, 1 Bellemen's Church Road, Leesport, 610-916-8301



EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025 SEWER RATE REDUCTION

Residents of the Township can look forward to a reduction in sewer rates starting January 1, 2025. The Board of Supervisors has announced a decrease in the monthly flat charge for sewer services from \$115 to \$110 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU), as part of Resolution #2024-10, adopted during their August meeting.

The decision follows a comprehensive rate projection study commissioned by the Township. This study was conducted to assess future sewer rate requirements to cover anticipated operating and capital expenses. The analysis, which relied on both historical and current data provided by the Township administration, aimed to forecast the financial trajectory of sewer rates.

The study's projections, while detailed, are based on a range of assumptions and are subject to change. The Township has emphasized that these projections are intended for planning purposes and that the budget and rate structure will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with actual financial needs.

The Township operates a sewer distribution system serving approximately 1,286 EDUs, with the sewage treated at either the Leesport Borough Sewage Treatment Plant or the Maiden Creek Sewage Treatment Plant. Township employees are responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of this system.

The rate reduction represents a positive shift in the Township's financial planning, reflecting careful consideration and investigation by the Supervisors. As part of ongoing fiscal management, the Township will reassess rate projections towards the end of 2025 to determine the sewer rate structure for 2026 and beyond.

Residents can expect to see the new rate reflected in their bills starting in January, providing some financial relief as the Township continues to ensure the effective management of its sewer system.

Where Does a Customer's Dollar Go? (2024 Budget)



Community Paper Shredding Event
October 12, 2024
 Residents of Berks County ONLY (No Businesses)
Registration Required
(CLICK HERE TO REGISTER)
 Berks County Agricultural Center
 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pa. 19533
8:00 AM – Noon
 5 boxes per vehicle maximum.



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FREE TO BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS

October 19, 2024 (8:00 AM - Noon)
 Berks County Agricultural Center
 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

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

WINTER WEATHER COMING SOON

Before you know it the first snowflakes will be falling. You need to be prepared for any type of winter weather, snow, sleet, freezing rain, etc. The road crews whether it be a Pa Dot driver or a township driver, they all need your patience and assistance during any snow or ice event.

Please remove the vehicles from the street to give the driver ample room to maneuver the plow.

If possible wait until the road has been plowed before clearing your driveway. There is no way to prevent snow from being pushed into driveways; however, shoveling snow to the right side of the driveway will minimize the amount of snow pushed back into the driveway by the plow. Please do not put any snow back onto plowed roadways.

All major thoroughfares will be done first. After the initial pass, the plow will return to widen the path.

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

Calais Drive (entire length)

Verdun Drive (entire length)

Edinboro Lane (entire length)

Indian Manor Drive from Bellemans Church Road to Gernants Church Road

Gernants Church Road from Indian Manor Drive to Loose Lane

Ida Red Drive from its intersection with Fuji Drive, located in the Harvest Subdivision, and continuing through the McIntosh Farms II Subdivision to the end of the curbed portion of Ida Red Road being located at the eastern end of the McIntosh Farms II Subdivision.

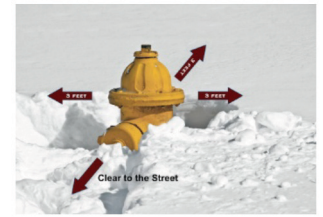
Sunglo Drive (entire length)

Hannibal Lane

Nantucket Drive (entire length)

Adams Road (entire length)

The township supervisors are asking all residents with a fire hydrant in front of or on their property to **adopt the hydrant** during the winter months. Please shovel any snow that may accumulate around the hydrant. In a fire situation, seconds count and if the firefighters cannot find the hydrant or have to dig it out the lost time could result in catastrophic damage to your or your neighbor's home.



Prevent street flooding by clearing catch basins near your home to allow rain and melting snow to enter the drainage system.

All snow plows are angled the same way (to the driver's right) and will automatically push the snow that direction. It is impossible for the equipment operators to avoid pushing snow into cleared driveways and sidewalks. If you must clear your driveway prior to the completion of snow plowing, please keep in mind that the snow that is in front of the plow will unload wherever there is a cleared area. This is why snow is left in a cleared driveway as the street is plowed. Clearing an area on the side of the driveway from which the plow approaches will provide an area for the snow to unload before it reaches your driveway. This area needs to be at least five feet long and two to three feet wide.



It is unlawful to shovel, plow or snowblow any snow into the street or roadway.

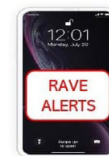
Any property owner/tenant of every property fronting any street in the township is asked to remove from the sidewalks all snow or ice that has fallen within 24 hours after any snow event. Please have a path of 36 inches wide cleared.

Mailbox damage- the township is not responsible for any mailboxes that are located within the right of way, that are hit by snow, ice or snowplows.

In the event of an emergency, we utilize Rave call out service to inform our residents 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. Submit your info to:

ontelauneetownship@comcast.net

****If your contact information changes, such as phone numbers or email addresses, please contact the township office to correct our records.**



Sign up to receive alerts

POWERED BY:
RAVE
EMERGENCY SYSTEM

Emergency alerts and notifications via
Phone call, text message, and email



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 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

BUILDING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Zoning Officer Township Office hours
Mondays and Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
****unless the building is closed due to a holiday.**

Our Building Inspector/Code Enforcement is handled by Kraft Municipal Group, office number is 610-777-1311 Please visit their website at www.kraftmunicipalgroup.com to obtain permit applications.

Please submit your completed application along with a plot plan, and 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.

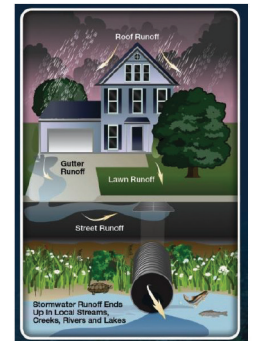
STORMWATER NEWS

You may have noticed these markers on the storm drains. The Public Works crew placed storm drain medallions on the storm drains to help raise the community's awareness of pollution and reduce illicit discharge into drains. Pollution results from everyday activities and those pollutants are often swept directly into storm drains and waterways with stormwater runoff. Some examples include fertilizers, motor oil, litter and animal waste.



HOW CAN YOU PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports animal waste, litter, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil & grease, soil and other potential pollutants.



What's the problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, these empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.

Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen can cause the overgrowth of algae resulting in oxygen depletion in waterways. Toxic substances from motor vehicles and careless application of pesticides and fertilizers threaten water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper connections to storm sewer systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil is a pollutant as well. It clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life.

A sanitary sewer system and a storm sewer system are not the same. Water that goes down a sink or other inside drain flows to either a wastewater treatment plant or to a septic system for treatment. Storm sewer flows are not treated. Water that flows down driveways, streets, and outside areas into a storm sewer or ditch flows directly to nearby creeks, fish and wildlife habitats, downstream recreational areas, and drinking water supplies.



UNION FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 OF LEESPORT



18 EAST WALL ST. P.O. BOX 777
LEESPORT, PA 19533
610-926-4090 (station)
leesportfire37@comcast.net(email)



Every Thursday
Meat trays and cash
Doors open at 5 p.m.
Games start at 6:30 p.m.

Drill nights are Tuesday evenings. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed!

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Township Public Works Department continues to manage the roads, water and sewer operations and the township property as well as maintaining the park system. The township promoted Israel Santiago to the position of Public Works Foreman.



(L to R: Matt, Israel, Andrew)





Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive,
Reading, PA 19605

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

BERKS COUNTY MEDICATION DROP BOX PROGRAM

Free disposal of unused, unwanted or expired medications.

Accepted: prescription and over the counter medications, including pet medications, ointments, inhalers, powder or patch form medication.

NOT accepted: any loose pills not in standard container or bag, syringes, thermometers, bandages, sunblock, lipstick, deodorant or skin creams.

List of locations where these items can be dropped off in our area

- Bern Twp. Police Department - 1069 Old Bernville Road, Bern Twp.
- Berks County Detectives - Berks County AG Center, 1238 Welfare Road, Leesport
- Fleetwood Police Department - 110 West Arch Street, Fleetwood
- Muhlenberg Twp. Police Department - 5401 Leesport Avenue, Muhlenberg

See other locations at the link below

<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/da/programs/prescription-drop-box>

