



Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive, Reading, PA 19605



Spring/Summer 2025

Township information

Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors
Josh Steingraber, Chairman
Jeremy Hoagland, Vice-Chairman
Charles Grebloski, Supervisor

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

Water/Sewer Department
Water and Sewer Dept., 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.

OFFICES ARE CLOSED:
April 18, May 20, May 26,
July 4, September 1



Ground was broken for Ontelaunee Lake in 1926, and the dam was completed in 1933. (COURTESY OF BERKS HISTORY CENTER)

The township is looking for historic maps, articles and pictures of Ontelaunee to display in the township building. If you have anything to share, please contact the Township Secretary. The documents can be placed on loan to the township or if permitted reproductions can be made.



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 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 AND 30**

Dog leash/Pick up after your pet

All dogs must be restrained on any street or sidewalk.
Please clean up after your pet.



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.

Public Works Department

PUBLIC WORKS



DEPARTMENT

The Township Public Works Department is comprised of three full-time employees and maintains the roads, water and sewer operations and the township property as well as maintaining the

park system. There are some new items that are being managed and that is crack sealing, catch basin cleaning, valve exercising and flushing of the hydrants in addition to the normal every day jobs such as trimming trees, clearing roads of debris, etc.



Recreation

We have a pavilion available for use in the Willow Glen Development. The pavilion has electricity and dusk to dawn lights for safety. Rental forms are located on the website



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 16 and ending August 8 from 9 am-1 pm. No program is held on July 4. For more information and registration for the program please be sure to check the website ymcarbc.org or follow the Tri Valley YMCA Facebook Page.



DON'T BLOW IT!

Help maintain safe roads by keeping grass and leaves on your property

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 motorcycle drivers, it is like driving on ice. In addition, the grass flows into the storm drains when it rains and creates back up of the drains. The township would appreciate everyone's help in keeping the grass clippings from being deposited on the streets.



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



PARKING OF CAMPERS, BOATS, RECREATION VEHICLES AND TRAILERS



Recreational vehicles, boats, trailers etc. are prohibited from parking on any street. All recreational equipment and vehicles, if parked at a residence, need to be parked behind the nearest portion of a building to a street.

Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement

**Township Zoning Officer hours:
Monday and Wednesdays – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Permits are available either at the Township Building or at www.kraftmunicipalgroup.com. Once completed, the permit application should be submitted to the Township building along with the required non-refundable application fee of \$50 for residential applications and \$150 for commercial. Please be aware that the review for a residential application could take up to 3 weeks. When the project is complete, please be sure to contact Kraft Municipal Group for a final inspection so the permit can be closed out. Please contact Kraft Municipal Group at **610.777.1311** with any further questions.

As the warm weather approaches and residents begin to consider summer backyard projects. **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.

Portable Pool Safety



Portable pools, which include wading pools, inflatable pools and soft-sided, self-rising pools, can be a low-cost and easy-to-set-up alternative to expensive in-ground pools and waterpark visits. Yet many parents underestimate the potential dangers associated with these products. By taking a few precautions, parents and caregivers can help children remain safe as they cool off during hot summer days.

Preventing Unsupervised Access to Pools

- Only allow children to be in the pool area when an adult is present to supervise.
- Empty wading pools immediately after use.
- The safest option is to place the pool inside a fenced-in area of the yard. The fencing should:
 - Be non-climbable
 - Be at least four feet high
 - Have self-closing and self-latching gates that open away from the pool
 - Not have any spaces under the fence or between uprights that are more than four inches wide
- Remember that the safest type of fencing is isolation fencing, which is 4-sided fencing that goes around the pool only.
- Remove items that could be used by a child to gain entry to the pool area.
- If possible, remove steps and ladders leading from the ground to the pool when the pool is not in use and keep these items locked away.
- Use door locks and alarms to prevent children from going from the house into the pool area without an adult.

Swimming Rules

- Children should never swim alone or only with other kids. An adult should always be present when children are in a pool.
- When watching children in the pool, the adult's full attention is needed. Avoid distractions such as reading, doing chores, talking on the phone or chatting with others.

The Spring fire hydrant flushing will be completed during the week of April 7, 2025 during the hours of 7 a.m. to 3 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.



Stormwater Management

Your roof, yard, driveway, and walkway, as well as sidewalks and streets are all connected to Ontelaunee Township's stormwater management system through storm drains, swales, curbing, and drainage ditches. Most people do not understand that storm drains are the entry point into the storm sewer system, and that stormwater runoff leaving these systems does not get collected and treated like sanitary wastewater. Inlets connect to pipes which eventually discharge to swales, ditches and streams and finally to the Schuylkill River. The township is hoping to prevent as much dirt, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, trash, pet waste, and household chemicals from entering our waterways through the Township's storm sewer system.

What You Can Do

There are steps that everyone can take to reduce the number of pollutants - trash, debris, pet waste, and chemicals - carried by stormwater. The most basic way to help is to never dump anything you wouldn't drink or swim in down a storm drain. Other ways to help include picking up pet waste, properly disposing of household chemicals such as paints and cleaning supplies, sweeping driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them, and washing cars at car wash facilities or on lawns rather than in driveways, and keeping inlets and swales clear of debris and leaves. The next time it rains, consider where the stormwater drains!



Working Storm Drain



Storm Drain that will not work due to debris

MS4 -STORM WATER- the supervisors will have a special presentation regarding Stormwater on August 7, 2025 at 7 p.m.



UNION FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 OF LEESPORT

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



Union Fire Company #1 of Leesport is excited to celebrate its 125th anniversary of serving our community. Our 100% volunteer organization is going to be hosting and helping to support a number of community events and fundraisers throughout the year. All these events are going to allow us to engage directly with the community members we serve.

Below is a list of the events we have planned for 2025 and a brief description:

April 6th – Special Bingo

We will be hosting a special bingo with unique prizes. We will be looking to fill our social quarters full 150 person capacity.

April 19th – Easter Egg Hunt:

Every year we invite the children of Leesport and Ontelaunee to join us at our engine house for an Easter Egg hunt and activities.

May 17th – Junior Firefighter Training Day:

This is a new history book we are developing just in time to celebrate our 125th anniversary. We are hosting a day to teach the younger generation what it means to be a firefighter. We will have unique stations for them to get a small taste of what it is like to be a firefighter. We will be ending the day with a movie for the community.

July 19th – Cornhole Tournament/Gun Raffle:

This annual fundraiser is newer and has seen us engaging more and more people each year. At our station we host a cornhole tournament while drawing the winners for our gun raffle. We serve food and have events all day for those in attendance. This event continues to grow every year, we can't wait to see what is next with this one!

August 5th – National Night Out:

Hosted by Norther Berks Regional Police Department, we are proud to support them and attend this event. We see so many members of our community while working with organizations we partner with every day.

September 5th + 6th – Leesport Community Days:

Leesport Area Historical Society hosts this event in the park at Leesport every year. We have been happy to attend this event every year with one or two of our apparatus. This year we will be reaching out to many of our neighboring companies to bring in more apparatus's and we are actively working with the Historical Society to see how we can help make this another great year!

We have created a website to keep track of all that is going on and keep adding information as we continue to plan and get more information. You can see that website at <https://sites.google.com/view/leesport-125> or scan the QR code here



In addition to all the above events, we also have a money raffle that will be drawn on September 6th at Community Days. We will be giving away over \$8500 between 39 prizes, only 4000 tickets being sold for \$5 each. As always, if you or anyone you know is interested in helping with these events or to be a fire fighter we are always looking for volunteers. We meet every Tuesday at our station from 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM, stop in and chat with us.

We also have Bingo every Thursday at 6PM at our social quarters between Labor Day and Memorial day. We hope to see you at these events to celebrate with us.



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

Spring is finally here, and before you know it, the kids will be out of school and summer will be upon us. As you drive through the neighborhoods, please remember to watch for pedestrians and bicyclists who are enjoying the warmer weather. Also, as a reminder for bicyclists, you are also required by PA Law to observe all the same traffic rules as motor vehicles, including stopping for red lights and stop signs.

Over the past several months, we have seen an increase in thefts from vehicles and would like to remind everyone to lock their vehicles and not let valuables in sight. With most cars today equipped with remote door locks, it's easy to make sure your vehicle is locked even from inside your home.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable time enjoying the warmer weather.

Chief Keiser
Northern Berks Regional Police Department



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

For a complete list of locations go to:

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/DA/Pages/Prescription-Drop-Box.aspx>

Water & Sewer News

Water and Sewer bills are due the 1st of the month. Due to the various ways that customers can pay their bills, such as: drop off in office, drop off in mailbox, mail the check, credit card payments, pay online or establish auto pay, the township will not **waive late fees** if received after the 1st of the month.



SIGN UP FOR YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILLS TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR EMAIL VIA PAPERLESS STATEMENTS AND SAVE PAPER, PLUS IT WILL REMIND YOU THAT YOU HAVE A BILL DUE.

YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS OR PICK A DATE TO HAVE YOUR PAYMENT AUTOMATICALLY PAID.

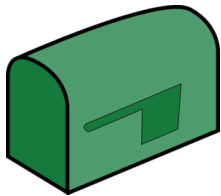
VISIT

WWW.XPRESSBILLPAY.COM.

PAY YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILLS ONLINE THROUGH

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



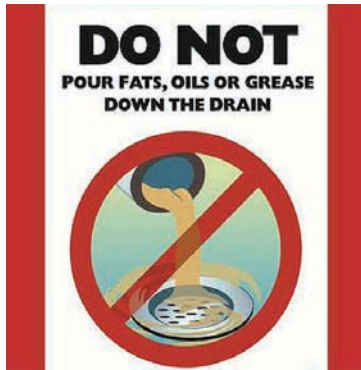
Our mailbox / after-hours drop box is conveniently located in front of the Township building. You may drop payments off at any time, just be sure they are received on or before the first of each month, regardless of the day the first falls.

Water Meter Pit Lids:

It is your responsibility to keep the area to, in, and around your meter pit 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.



As spring arrives, be sure to inspect the sanitary sewer clean out cap. The sewer clean out is a pipe or pipe(s) with a cap that provides access to the sewer line so that blockages can be removed. The lateral sewer line is the sewer line that connects your home to the main public sewer system. Usually, the sewer cleanout is located somewhere along the lateral sewer line. Be sure the caps are securely in place and rise above the ground by a few inches to prevent infiltration. Infiltration is costly to everyone as it adds unnecessary flow to the sewer system resulting in additional fees. Look over your sidewalk and fix or repair any loose or uneven areas. Inspect your outside spigot(s) for cracks or damage from frost to prevent a potential leak.



FOG stands for **Fats, Oils and Grease**, all of which can severely damage your sanitary sewer system. **FOG** includes animal and vegetable **fats**, as well as **oils** used to cook and prepare food.

**CAN IT. COOL IT.
THROW IT AWAY.**

Although the packaging may say "*flushable*", today's *wet wipes* actually do more harm than good when flushed down the toilet. Toilet paper is designed to disintegrate in our pipes and sewage systems, **but wipes are not**. They're typically made with synthetic materials, plastics or polyester, that won't break down. So even if they flush down your toilet, they end up clogging our sewers resulting in costly repairs.

Wipes Clog Pipes!

Place these items in the **TRASH** and **NOT** the toilet:

- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Towelettes
- Mop refills





Recycling information

Ontelaunee Township offers free Single Stream Recycling to our residents. Single Stream Recycling allows participants to place their recyclables in one container.

The single stream dumpsters are 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.

What can be recycled?

Recyclable

These items can be recycled in one container with All-in-One Recycling™



Paper

Paper (staples okay)
Newspaper
Envelopes
Junk mail
Phone books
Brochures
Magazines



Cardboard

Ream wrappers
File folders
Poster board
Frozen food boxes
Cardboard boxes
Milk cartons



Plastic

Water bottles
Take-out containers
Soda bottles
Bagged film plastics



Metal

Aluminum beverage cans
Food cans
Scrap metal



Glass

Bottles (clear, green & brown)
Jars

Non-recyclable



Aerosol cans
Aluminum foil
Batteries
Food waste
Mirrors or ceramics
Stickers & address labels
Styrofoam
Tissue, paper towels or napkins
For more information on recyclables, visit RepublicServices.com



We'll handle it from here.®

Empty. Clean. Dry.™

The new way to recycle.



EMPTY means making sure there is no food or product residue. Make sure all of that goes into the trash or down the drain as part of the EMPTY process.

CLEAN means that empty recyclable containers should be rinsed. So, no mustard in the mustard containers no leftover ketchup in the ketchup bottles. If you cannot get a container completely clean, it is best to put it into the trash so as not to contaminate the rest of your recycling material and the overall process.

DRY means letting containers dry before placing them in your blue container so that the paper and cardboard does not get wet. Wet or soiled paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.

By practicing **Empty. Clean. Dry.™** with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes are in fact recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of this blue planet – our home, and largely covered with blue waters that flow beneath blue skies. It is worthy of every effort we can make to protect it for our children's children.



Empty.



Clean.



Dry.

Be sure your recyclables are empty, clean and dry™ before placing them in your recycling container.

Did You Know?



Grocery bags ARE NOT recyclable and often contaminate other recyclables.



Never recycle diapers! Baby diapers are the most common contaminant in the recycling stream.



Only the clean lid of a Pizza box is recyclable; not the greasy bottom.



Yard waste cannot be placed inside your recycling container.





Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive,
Reading, PA 19605

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer



Yard Waste –grass clippings, tree,
shrubbery clippings may be taken to
Berks Soil and Stone at
1 Belleman’s Church Road,
Leesport for recycling.
Phone number is: 484-277-7901