

Bethlehem Township

Northampton County, Pennsylvania

WINTER 2024



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DIRECTORY

Administration.....610-814-6405
 Community Center610-332-1900
 Construction.....610-814-6430
 Finance/Billing610-814-6460
 Physical Plant/Sewer610-814-6420
 Planning610-814-6440
 Police (Admin).....610-814-6426
 Police (Dispatch).....610-759-2200
 Public Works610-814-6442

Holidays

The Municipal Offices will be closed

- Monday, December 25th 2023
- Tuesday, December 26th 2023
- Monday, January 1st 2024
- Friday, March 21st 2024

The Municipal Offices will close early on the following dates

- At 12pm Friday, December 22nd 2023
- At 12pm Friday, December 29th 2023

Board of Commissioners

- Jan Beatty
- John Gallagher
- DeAnn Lawrence
- John Merhottein
- Michael Hudak



Message from the Board of Commissioners

It is our pleasure to present to you Bethlehem Township's winter newsletter. This document contains valuable information regarding your local government operations and services, as well as advertisements from local businesses and organizations.

As this publication goes to print, the Board of Commissioners, the township's legislative body, is preparing to adopt a budget for 2024. The budget and related documents are available for review on the township's website, www.bethlehemtownship.org. Click on Departments, then Finance, then Budget/Audit to access those files.

And please check out the Bethlehem Township Community Center's website at www.bethlehemtownship.org/btcc/ for full information on recreation activities, fitness classes, and other offerings.

We wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2024.

The Township of Bethlehem Board of Commissioners and Staff

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Commissioners	1st and 3rd Monday	Monthly	7:00 pm
Recreation Committee	2nd Monday	Monthly	6:00 pm
Planning Commission	4th Monday	Monthly	7:00 pm
Zoning Hearing Board	Last Wednesday	Monthly	6:30 pm
Environmental Advisory Council	3rd Thursday	Monthly	7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Bethlehem Township will be accepting Christmas Trees at the Yard Waste Recycling Center during regular center hours.

- Trees will not be picked up at curbside.
- Residents should bring proof of Township residency (driver's license).
- The Center is located next to the Public Works Facility at 4450 Falmer Drive.
- All decorations and lights must be removed prior to dropping off your trees.
- In the event of winter precipitation, the Center may be closed so Public Works personnel can tend to the streets. It is recommended to call to check the hours if a storm is forecasted.
- Questions regarding this program should be referred to:



Public Works Department - 610-814-6442

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP YARD WASTE RECYCLING CENTER

MONDAY— WEDNESDAY—FRIDAY: NOON TO 4PM
SATURDAY: 10AM TO 3PM
SUNDAY: 1PM TO 4PM



Hours of operation may be dependant on weather conditions. Contact the Publics Works Department (610-814-6442) during bad weather for any changes or cancellations.

Bethlehem Township Recycling Center Regulations:

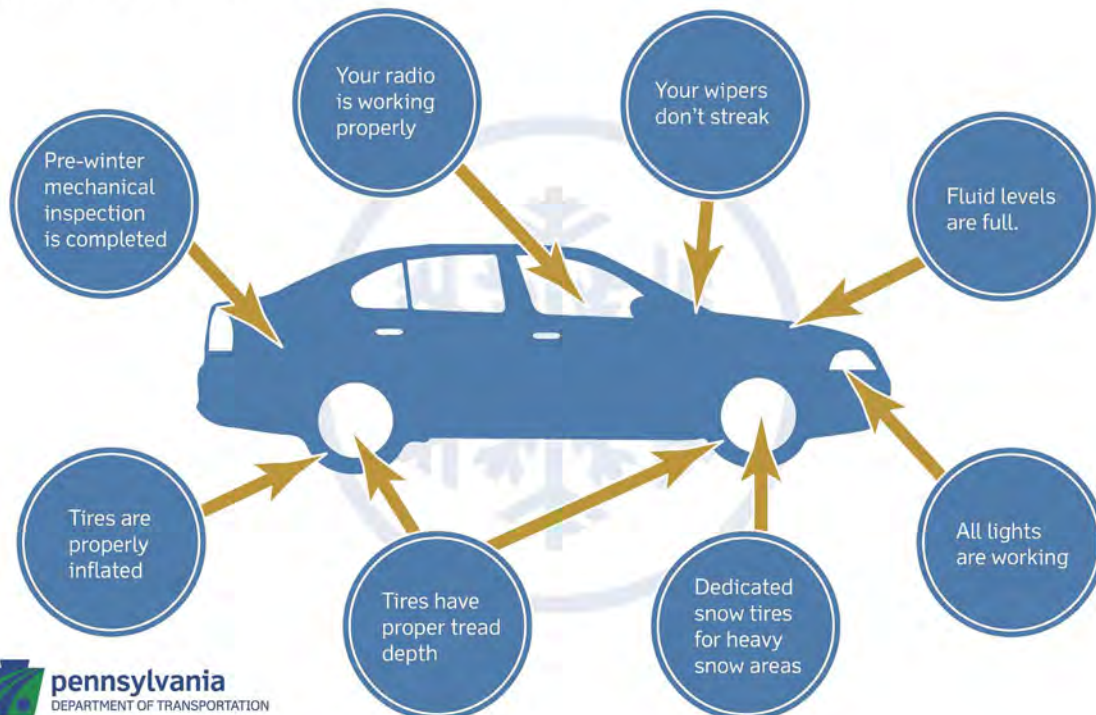
UPDATE: Beginning January 1, 2020 Contractors and Landscapers will no longer be permitted access the yard waste center. The center will also not allow trailers larger than two axle that are longer than 10 feet or large trucks. Residential use only. Must show documentation of residency.

- ✓ The Center only accepts tree branches, shrubbery trimmings, vegetable plants, and flower plants.
- ✓ Tree stumps, and shrub roots with dirt as well as grass clippings are NOT accepted.
- ✓ Branches up to 12 inches in diameter are accepted. Branches should be no longer than 4 feet.
- ✓ Residents are responsible for unloading their materials and emptying any containers. Containers must be taken home with the resident.
- ✓ Composted leaf mulch and fresh wood chips are available for residents to take home and use. The Township does not guarantee the quality of the recycled materials.
- ✓ The Township is not responsible for the loading of any of the recycled materials.
- ✓ The Bethlehem Township Recycling Center is located behind the Public Works Facility at 4450 Falmer Drive.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RECYCLING CENTER SHOULD BE REFERRED TO: 610-814-6442.

Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter

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SNOW & ICE ARE ON THE WAY . . . BE PREPARED!



As we enter into the winter season, we would like to take this opportunity to discuss the Public Works Department's Winter Street and Road Program. It is the Department's policy to begin salting and cindering the roads as soon as it becomes necessary. The Police Department, who are continually traveling the roadways, make the determination as to when the streets become unsafe, and call our department. We will begin plowing the streets within two (2) hours after the snow has stopped falling, if needed. The snow removal policy is as follows:

- FIRST PRIORITY:** Snow Emergency Routes, emergency services areas, school routes & all main arteries
- SECOND PRIORITY:** All alternate streets
- THIRD PRIORITY:** Dead ends and cul-de-sacs

As new streets are built, they are added to the list. After the initial plowing, it is necessary to have the plow return to widen the driving path. This provides an area to plow additional snow should another storm arrive prior to the melting period. It will also uncover the storm water inlets to provide for proper drainage as the snow melts. So, just because you saw the truck go past your driveway, don't automatically assume that we are done plowing your street.

DID YOU KNOW??

- I. **That according to Bethlehem Township Ordinance 6-94, Section II, Part 7 -**
 - "It shall be unlawful to park, or leave unattended motor vehicle, or to allow a motor vehicle to remain parked or unattended, on the main paved portion of any cul-de-sac street in the Township of Bethlehem when there has been a snow fall of four (4") inches or greater, until such time as the cul-de-sac has been cleared of snow.
 - "After a Snow Emergency is declared, it shall be unlawful, at any time during the continuance of the emergency, for any person:
 - a. to park or leave unattended a motor vehicle, or to allow a motor vehicle to remain parked or unattended, on a Snow Emergency Route
 - b. to operate a motor vehicle on a Snow Emergency Route unless that vehicle is equipped with snow tires or chains
- II. **That it is ILLEGAL** to shovel, plow or use a snow blower to deposit snow into the street right of way.
- III. **That it is the responsibility of property owners** to clear sidewalks, which abut their property, of snow and/or ice after a storm.
- IV. **That it is the responsibility of property owners** to clear around fire hydrants. These measures are for the safety of the public as well as that of the property owner.
- V. That Bethlehem Township has adopted **Resolution No. R28-92 which states that damage to any mailbox, fence post, shrubbery**, etc. by the funnel of snow expelled from the plow will not be repaired by the Township. If a Township vehicle or plow makes physical contact with such property and causes damage, the item will be replaced at the Township's expense. Any damaged should be reported to the Public Works Department and it will be evaluated by the Chief of Public Works. You will be notified by mail of his decision. Also, per our zoning ordinance, basketball backboards must be two feet in from your lot line (not street line). They hinder our drivers from effectively clearing the roads when they are illegally placed.
- VI. **It is ILLEGAL** and very unsafe to operate snowmobiles or all terrain vehicles on the streets.
- VII. **For your own safety**, when you see the plow trucks on your street, keep yourself, your children, and your pets indoors. Snow expelled from the plow could cover small animals or knock down children. Also, allowing children to make tunnels in snow banks along the street could result in serious injury if the banks have to be moved and children are hiding inside the tunnels.
- VIII. The Following streets have been established as **Snow Emergency Routes** in Bethlehem Township

STREET	FROM	TO
Bayard Street	Hope Road	Sheridan Drive
Brodhead Road	Hecktown Road	Township Line Road
Carter Road	Willow park Road	Farmersville Road
Church Road	William Penn Highway	Country Club Road
Country Club Road	Church Road	Township boundary
Dundee Road	Margate Road	Highfield Drive
Farmersville Road	Easton Avenue	Freemansburg Avenue
Hecktown Road	Easton Avenue	Oakland Road
Hecktown Road	Green Pond Road	Brodhead Road
Highfield Drive	Dundee Road	Nazareth Pike (?)
Linden Street	Willow Park Road	Freemansburg Avenue
Margate Road	Hecktown Road	Dundee Road

STREET	FROM	TO
Oakland Road	Hecktown Road	Easton Avenue
Ohio Street	William Penn Highway	Freemansburg Avenue
Santee Road	Easton Avenue	Chester Avenue
Chester Avenue	Santee Road	Township boundary
5th Street	Easton Avenue	Freemansburg Avenue
7th Street	Easton Avenue	Carter Road
8th Street	Linden Street	Freemansburg Avenue
9th Street	Linden Street	Freemansburg Avenue
12th Street	Walnut Street	Freemansburg Avenue
Middletown Road	Willow Park Road	Ritter Street
Ritter Street	Middletown Road	Easton Avenue
Walnut Street	Willow Park Road	12th Street

The following streets have been added as **Snow Emergency Routes** by Ordinance 17-15

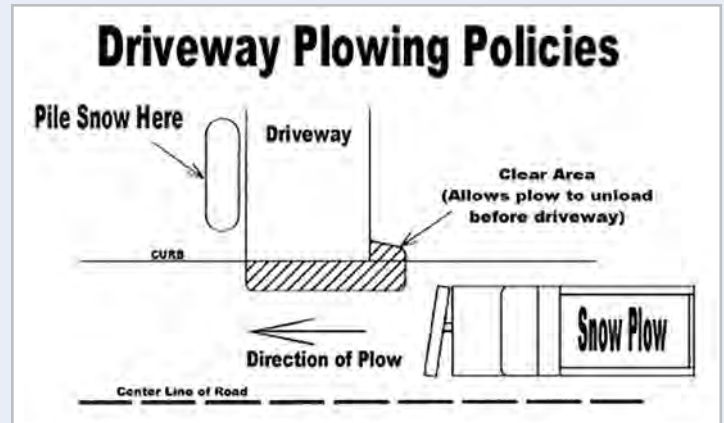
STREETS	FROM	TO
Bethman Road	William Penn Hwy	Farmersville Road
Campbell Drive	Rexford Drive	Green Pond Rod
Canterbury Road	Rambeau Road	Gloucester Drive
Chester Road	Santee Road	Hecktown Road
Chipman Road	William Penn Hwy	Church Road
Country Top Trail	Wagner Drive	Derby Lane
Danberry Drive	Kingsview Avenue	Esquire Drive
Derby Lane	Farmersville Road	Meyer Road
Embur Terrace	Winfield Terrace	King Avenue
Emrick Blvd	William Penn Hwy	Freemansburg Ave
Esquire Drive	Danberry Drive	Southwood Drive
Farmersville Road	Bethman Road	Green Pond Road
Farmersville Road	Freemansburg Avenue	Wilson Avenue
Gloucester Drive	Canterbury Road	Hecktown Road
Green Pond Road	Farmersville Road	Bethman Road
Hampton Road	Freemansburg Avenue	Washington Street
Harvey Road	Country Top Trail	Meyer Road
Hodle Avenue	William Penn Hwy	Penacook Avenue
Keystone Street	Clermont Avenue	Willow Park Road
King Charles Blvd	Farmersville Road	Rexford Drive
King Avenue	Freemansburg Avenue	Embur Terrace
Kingsview Avenue	Freemansburg Avenue	Danberry Drive
Lehigh Street	3 rd Street	Sculac Drive
Meyer Road	Derby Lane	Harvey Road
Penacook Avenue	Ohio Street	Hodle Avenue
Prima Drive	Chipman Road	Westbrook Drive
Rambeau Road	Oakland Road	Canterbury Road
Ranee Street	Church Road	Tiffany Drive
Rau Lane	Esquire Drive	Toursdale Drive
Reeve Drive	Easton Avenue	Rexford Drive
Rexford Drive	King Charles Boulevard	Farmersville Road
Sculac Drive	Freemansburg Avenue	Wilson Avenue
Sheridan Drive	William Penn Hwy	Winfield Terrace
Southwood Drive	Esquire Drive	Toursdale Drive
Tiffany Drive	Westbrook Drive	Ranee Street
Toursdale Drive	Southwood Drive	Rau Lane
Vintage Drive	Farmersville Road	Wagner Drive
Wagner Drive	Vintage Drive	Country Top Trail
Washington Street	Easton Avenue	Hampton Road
Washington Street	Easton Avenue	Freemansburg Avenue
Westbrook Drive	Prima Drive	Tiffany Drive
Wilson Avenue	Sculac Drive	Farmersville Road
Winfield Terrace	Sheridan Drive	Embur Terrace
3 RD Street	Freemansburg Avenue	Lehigh Street

- IX. Salt needs the heat generated by tires on the street to activate and melt the ice. Also, once the temperature has reached a certain low level, salt will not work at all.
- X. Our drivers do their best in order to clear the streets promptly. They work many long hours away from their homes and families so that you can travel safely. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

“I JUST FINISH SHOVELING MY DRIVEWAY!!”

The snow which is in front of a plow will unload whenever it passes a cleared area.

This is why snow is left in a clean driveway as the street is plowed. If you must clean your driveway prior to the completion of our plowing, there are two strategies you can try to alleviate double shoveling. If you leave the first five (5) feet of your driveway (closest to the street) un-shoveled until we are finished, you will only have to shovel this section once. Also, a cleared area on the side of the driveway from which the truck will approach, provides an area for the snow to unload from the plow before it reaches your driveway. However, this area must be AT LEAST 10 feet long and 4 to 5 feet wide, depending on the amount of snow that has fallen. This area must also be off the side of the street in order to be affective. The following sketch shows you how:



WINTER STORM FACTS

DO:

- ✓ **Clear the sidewalks** around your property of any snow and/or ice after a storm.¹
- ✓ **Clear around fire hydrants.** If your house is on fire, you'll want the fire company to be able to find them.
- ✓ **Keep children, pets and yourself indoors** when you see the plow trucks coming. Snow expelled from the plow can cover small children and pets.
- ✓ **Make sure basketball standards** are two feet behind your lot line (not the curb line).²
- ✓ **Prepare for winter's storms NOW.** Purchase bottled water, batteries and non-perishable foods that can be eaten without cooking in the event of a power outage.
- ✓ **Prepare your car for winter.** Keep your fuel tank full and make sure your wipers and heater are working. Keep an extra pair of gloves, a hat, a blanket and some water in your car in case you get stranded.
- ✓ **Allow plenty of time for traveling in winter weather.** It's more important to "Arrive Alive" than to arrive on time! Take extra caution on bridges and on/off ramps. These areas freeze first.
- ✓ **Understand that sodium chloride (de-icing salt) requires heat** (from the sun, traffic) to be activated and melt the ice. Once the temperature falls to a certain degree, the salt won't work at all.
- ✓ **Understand that every winter storm is unique;** that we can't beat Mother Nature; that our drivers do their best in order to clear the streets promptly; that they work many long hours away from their homes and families so that you can travel safely on the Township's over 110 miles of roadway and that we appreciate your patience and understanding.
- ✓ **Follow the diagram above for guidance on shoveling your driveway.** If you must clean your driveway prior to the completion of our plowing, there are two strategies you can try to alleviate double shoveling. If you leave the first five (5) feet of your driveway (closest to the street) un-shoveled until we are finished, you will only have to shovel this section once. Also, a cleared area on the side of the driveway from which the truck will approach, provides an area for the snow to unload from the plow before it reaches your driveway. However, this area must be AT LEAST 10 feet long and 4 to 5 feet wide, depending on the amount of snow that has fallen. This area must also be off the side of the street in order to be affective.

DON'T:

- ✗ **Operate snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes or scooters** on the streets.³
- ✗ **Allow children to make tunnels in snow banks along the street.** It could result in serious injury if the banks are moved while children are hiding in the tunnels.
- ✗ **Shovel, plow or use a snow blower to deposit snow into the street right-of-way.**⁴
- ✗ **Assume that just because you saw the plow truck go down your street, that we are finished plowing your street.** While it continues to snow, we will maintain an open driving lane down the streets and when the storm is finished, we will come back to widen the roadway. The Township will plow from "curb to curb" so our storm drains are opened and there is room to push back additional snow from the next storm. If the storm drains aren't open when the snow melts, flooding can occur.

¹Bethlehem Township Ordinance 13-96, Part 3, Section 302

²Bethlehem Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 2003 D, #16b

³PA Vehicle Code Title 18, Chapter 77, Sub-Chapter C, Section 7721

⁴Bethlehem Township Ordinance 13-96, Part 3 Section 303

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IMPORTANT UPDATES

TAXES

Keystone Collections Group collects your Earned Income Tax – you may choose to file online at www.KeystoneCollects.com. Their tax support line may be reached by calling 888.328.0565.

We receive calls from residents that are concerned about postal delays and receiving timely credit for their payments. Postmark dates are honored for timely credit. Also, we retrieve items placed in the municipal drop box on a daily basis and you will receive same day credit.

STORMWATER FEE

Effective 2022, a new Stormwater Fee will be mailed out annually to all residents and businesses. The Township is utilizing Berkheimer to process and collect the fees.

All billings are sent to the property owner. Discount, Base and Penalty Due Dates and Amounts are printed on all bills. All payments are to be directed to Berkheimer, not the Township.

Unpaid bills sent for delinquent stormwater fee collection as of January 1st each year, Stormwater fee bills are mailed out by February 1st each calendar year.

- For more information, visit bethlehemtownship.org/stormwater, email stormwater@bethlehemtp.com, or call (610) 814-6491.
- Make your check or money order payable to: HAB-MISC. no cash payments accepted.
- You may pay using the berk app or online at WWW.HAB-INC.COM by credit card, checking or savings account or via phone at 866-225-8451 (a third-party fee will apply)

SEWER PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay directly at municipal office, by mail or drop box (in front of municipal office main entrance)

Online Bill Pay Service for Sewer Bills

We have launched new features that allow you to access and manage your Bethlehem Township sewer bills online at your convenience. View and pay bills online, receive email reminders when a payment is due, enroll in Auto-Pay, receive Paperless Billings and even Pay by Text. You will be asked to either register as a new online customer or simply "Pay Now." If using Pay Now you may always register at another time to take advantage of more features as mentioned above.

Links are provided on <https://bethlehemtownship.org/payments>. No fee for EFT payments via checking/savings account. There is a "convenience fee" of 2.95% for credit/debit card payments (\$3.95 minimum fee). Pay by phone using 1-855-985-1094.

SEWER BILLINGS

Important Sewer Meter Read Reminder

Please ensure proper access/clearance for routine sewer meter readings; bushes, flower beds, animals, etc. Not only is the removal of obstructions appreciated it may reduce further costs should additional staff time be required to schedule follow-up reads.

Sewer Rates –Quarterly Rates

Current rates \$54.00 1st 6,000 gallons plus \$7.27 for each 1,000 additional gallons

Current rates are published on the township website Finance section. Current rates also printed on sewer billing.

Payable to "Bethlehem Township"

Penalty of 10% applied if paid after due date

SEWER DEDUCTION METERS

Deduction Meters should be considered if you use a lot of water for outside purposes (i.e. - filling a pool, watering a lawn). These meters will deduct the water consumption units used outside the home from your total water consumption, thereby reducing your sewer bill to account for water that did not enter the sewer system directly.

Rentals are \$5.00 per week, plus a \$100 deposit, which will be returned to you when the meter is returned in good condition. Purchase of a meter is \$229, charge subject to current pricing. The homeowner must install the meter. Questions about deduction meters can be directed to the Physical Plant office at 610.814.6420, or download the information packet from our site. Please check with The Department of Environmental Protection's Drought Information Center before renting a meter.

REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay directly at municipal office, by mail or drop box (in front of municipal office main entrance)

Online Bill Pay Service for Real Estate Tax Bills: Links are provided on <https://bethlehemtownship.org/payments>. No fee for EFT payments via checking/savings account. There is a "convenience fee" of 2.95% for credit card payments (\$1.00 minimum fee). This new online tax payment option operates on a "Pay Now" basis. No registration.

REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS

(Payable to "Bethlehem Township")

All billings are sent to the property owner. Discount, Base and Penalty Due Dates and Amounts are printed on all bills.

2023 tax millage rate – 7.74 mills (7.59 general purpose mills plus 0.15 fire tax mills)

Unpaid bills sent for delinquent tax collection as of January 1st each year. Tax bills are mailed out by February 1st each calendar year. Please contact Finance Dept. if you are concerned you have not received annual tax bill.

Finance Customer Support Line 610.814.6460

Finance related questions may be directed to the following email addresses:

taxes@bethlehemtp.com
finance@bethlehemtp.com
billing@bethlehemtp.com

Bethlehem Area Public Library

This Fall, BAPL will offer a variety of programs and events for adults, including exercise and computer classes, book, film, and knitting clubs, open-mic nights, arts and crafts programs, and author events.

Apply for a library card!

If you're a resident of Bethlehem City, Bethlehem Township, Fountain Hill or Hanover Township (Northampton Co.) you can apply for a library card and check out e-books, audio books, and online magazines, and access all other BAPL eResources, as well as place holds on physical media for grab-and-go pickup!



Youth Services:



The Youth Department of the Main Library will offer Baby, Toddler, and Family Storytime series throughout the fall. Our Play and Learn: Family Place Playgroup series for young children ages 6 months to 3 years will be offered on Fridays in October and November. Special events for families, school-age children, and teens and planned throughout the season. Moravian University America Reads tutors will be back to provide assistance to students in grades K - 12, Monday through Thursday, with homework and assignments.

Find out More!

Please follow us on social media @pabapl, subscribe to our e-newsletter, check bapl.org, or stop into any BAPL location for more up to date information!



Locations:

Main Library

11 W. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA
18018
610.867.3761

South Side Branch

400 Webster Street
Bethlehem, PA
18015
610.867.7852

Coolidge Branch

2740 Fifth Street,
Bethlehem PA
18020
484-892-6267

Books on The Hill

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Fountain Hill)

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STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

UPCOMING AND FUTURE FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Bethlehem Township understands the important role our community plays in identifying stormwater issues throughout the Township. We take property owner concerns regarding stormwater seriously and are committed to reviewing each one. As a result, the Township launched an online stormwater concern forum, located on the Township website.

<https://bethlehemtownship.org/stormwater>

In response to a resident's concern, the Township conducted an investigation into the recurring flooding issues on Fairway Drive and Bethman Road. Our inspection confirmed that properties along Fairway Drive and Bethman Road consistently experience flooding challenges. The Township is working to resolve this issue.

Each report of a stormwater concern will be carefully reviewed and registered in the Township's system. Your involvement ensures that the Township is continuously aware of potential stormwater issues and can better plan for a safer and more sustainable future. Make sure to check the Township website to access the stormwater concern portal and see updates to stormwater improvement projects happening in the Township.



~8 inches of flooding in 2023



Flooding on Bethman and Fairway

REDUCING POLLUTION THIS WINTER

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION ON YOUR PROPERTY

1. When piling your snow after shoveling, blowing, or plowing, choose locations where the snow will have the best opportunity to infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Do not deliberately pile snow on storm drains. Help protect your property by clearing away any snow that you see covering inlets and fire hydrants.
2. Use de-icing chemicals and salts responsibly. Use only what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe. Avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways, salt sensitive plants, and your private well. Clean up any excess de-icers for use during the next snowfall. Chlorides found in most de-icing chemicals are not biodegradable and are toxic to aquatic freshwater organisms. They accumulate in soils and will eventually make their way into both groundwater and nearby streams. When conditions permit, consider taking advantage of one of the cheapest, most environmentally friendly de-icers available – SUNLIGHT!
3. Postpone outdoor construction projects in winter, when you can't establish new vegetation to reduce soil loss and muddy runoff. Cover bare soil with erosion control blankets and straw to help keep soil in place.





There's a great Children's Hospital in the Lehigh Valley.

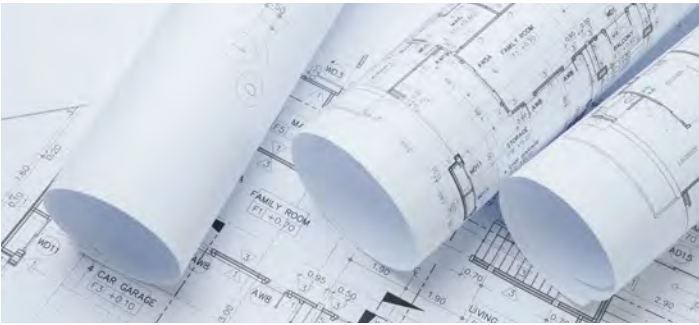
It's at St. Luke's.

Now the region has more choices than ever for children's health care. You'll find everything from routine primary care to a long list of pediatric specialists as well as pediatric emergency, surgical, inpatient and critical care. Kids staying in our hospital are treated with leading-edge expertise and a big dose of compassion. Our complete range of pediatric care is convenient to home, close to family and easy to access. St. Luke's Children's Hospital. Just another example of how we're caring more for kids, parents and the community.

sluhn.org/childrenshospital

801 Ostrum St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

Who Makes The Rules For Development Anyway?



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dictates how development occurs in zoned municipalities through a set of 'laws' called the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The MPC outlines the purpose of planning, organization and duties of planning agencies; definitions; procedures; and relationships of planning agencies with other groups. The MPC also outlines the responsibilities of the three Township boards that are predominately involved in land development: Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.

Board of Commissioners

This is the elected Township Board. The Board of Commissioners also adopts and amends the Comprehensive Plan (which is non-binding) and a variety of land use ordinances (which are binding). The Board of Commissioners is the only group in the Township that approves or denies subdivision and land development plans. Some of these include Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development (SALDO), and Stormwater Management Ordinances.

Planning Commission

The members of the Planning Commission are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. This is an advisory commission that reviews projects in terms of compliance with the SALDO and Stormwater Management Ordinances. In addition to stormwater review, the Planning Commission reviews for lot layout and design, street design, water/sewer service, and required public improvements. The Planning Commission sees land development proposals before the Board of Commissioners and provides the Board with recommendations on the proposal.

Zoning Hearing Board

The members of the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. This is a quasi-judicial body that acts as the first level of appeal regarding the Zoning Ordinance. The ZHB primarily rules over hearings regarding special exceptions, variances, and appeals from Zoning Officer decisions. Zoning issues can include the location of uses, density of uses, open space, building coverage and dimensions. This board is independent of the Board of Commissioners and the Planning Commission.

If you are interested in learning more about the land development process or in being considered to serve on an appointed board in Bethlehem Township, please contact Amanda Jensen, Community Development Director. araudenbush@bethlehtwp.com (610) 814-6441



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THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES

This publication is produced at no cost to Bethlehem Township residents thanks to the generous sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout the newsletter. The Township recognized these businesses as community supporters and encourages residents to also suggest these local businesses with their patronage.

PICNIC PAVILIONS RENTALS FOR 2024



Please note that all rentals will be handled on line. The public will be able to check availability of each of the pavilions on the website and book a date and pay right on the web site. Please check the township website or upcoming newsletters for information on how to rent a pavilion on line.

To reserve, please visit <https://www.bethlehtownship.org/pavillion-rentals>

The following is a brief description of each pavilion:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| PAVILION # 1 | Seats approx. 250 people
Has electricity and restrooms
Is visible from Farmersville Road
Rents for \$125(resident), \$200(non-resident); refundable security deposit of \$150
2 Horseshoe pits
2 Volleyball courts |
| PAVILION # 2 | Seats approx. 150 people
Has electricity – restrooms in the Community Center
Is located next to the Community Center
Rents for \$100(resident), \$135(non-resident); refundable security deposit of \$100
1 Volleyball court |
| PAVILION # 3 | Seats approx. 35 people
No electricity-restrooms in the Community Center
Is located north of Pavilion # 2
Rents for \$50(resident), \$60(non-resident); refundable security deposit of \$50 |

All the pavilions have charcoal grills and trash receptacles available. Please note that bands, DJ's and "inflatable bouncers" are not allowed as part of the pavilion rental permit. No rentals or reservations are taken prior to January 15, 2024.

DEITER BROTHERS HEATING COOLING ENERGY
QUAD AD - NEED ARTWORK

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



WINTER SAFETY TIPS - Help Us, Help You

It's that time of the year again in Northeast Pennsylvania where blustery winds, expected and surprise snowfalls will be upon us. During these storm events, high winds and blowing snow can easily drift against homes, making it hard to get around, but it may also cause serious safety hazards. These accumulations and drifting snow may block vents outside of your home's foundation, which can cause deadly gas to build up in the house. As a homeowner, it is crucial to understand where your vents are, check them frequently during snow events, and know the dangers.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas and is most often created by combustion fuels such as wood, gasoline, propane, or charcoal. Appliances and fireplaces are designed to vent CO outdoors; however, when there's a malfunction or blockage, they will leak harmful gasses indoors, causing carbon monoxide poisoning.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include dizziness, fatigue, headache, and nausea. Long-term and higher levels of exposure may produce vomiting, blurred vision, and shortness of breath before inducing loss of consciousness. When high levels build-up, and you observe symptoms, you may have only minutes to evacuate the house before serious harm. Please make sure you have CO detectors in your home and change your batteries at least twice a year. There are numerous videos and instructions online for proper installation and installation locations for CO detectors. Make sure to also remove the snow away from all doors if you need to quickly leave your house during an emergency.



Before you put that shovel away, another crucial element to winter safety is shoveling out the snow around fire hydrants. Upon arriving at a fire scene, one of the first tasks for firefighters is to locate a water supply at the nearest hydrant, and every second counts. Deep snow, drifting snow, and passing snowplows can bury hydrants, making them challenging to locate and access. A responding fire engine carries a limited amount of water, and the tank will be empty within two to three minutes before needing water from the fire hydrant. When removing the snow away from fire hydrants, we request that you clear out 3' around the hydrant on all sides, down to the grass. Consider helping the elderly, neighbors, or those with medical conditions to keep their vents and fire hydrants clear. The fire hydrant in their yard may be the one we need to protect your life and property.

Hear the
BEEP
where you
SLEEP



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.

Concerned with a spot on your skin?

Don't wait: LVPG Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
has appointments available.



Kimberly Tacconi, PA-C
LVHN.org/KATacconi



Ken Rachwal, PA-C
LVHN.org/KPRachwal

If you've noticed a concerning area of your skin, LVPG Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery evaluates, tests and treats skin growths, masses, moles, lumps and bumps on any part of the body. Your care team will examine your area of concern and develop a personalized care plan for you.

[Learn more at LVHN.org/skinclinic](https://www.lvhn.org/skinclinic)



MAKE SURE YOU'RE SIGNED UP: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXCLUSION!

By Rep. Joe Emrick (R-Northampton)

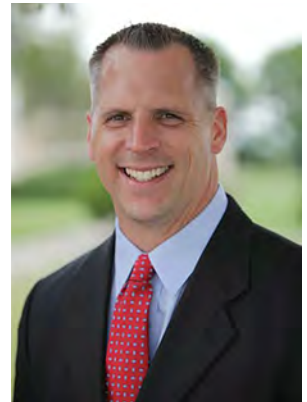
Did you know you can save money on your property taxes through the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion? The Taxpayer Relief Act reduces your property tax bill on your primary residence and the savings are deducted automatically.

Applying is simple and once you've signed up, you don't have to worry about it again as long as you live in your home! Under the program, individuals qualify for a homestead exclusion so long as they own the property for which they are applying, they pay the taxes on it and it is their primary residence.

Please call my offices at 484-544-0146 or 610-746-5090 so my staff can either confirm you've already signed up for the program or help guide you through the application process and submit it on your behalf. You may also visit my district office at 134 South Main St., Nazareth, or my Palmer district office at 301 Village at Stones Crossing Road if you prefer in-person assistance.

Applicants will be notified within 30 days if they qualify for a reduction in their real estate taxes.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my district office for assistance. I look forward to serving you.



Representative Joe Emrick

OFFICES

Nazareth Office

Nazareth Borough Office Building
134 South Main St.
Nazareth, PA 18064
610-746-5090
FAX: 610-746-5093
Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Noon to 1 p.m.

Capitol Office

108 Ryan Office Building
PO Box 202137
Harrisburg, PA 17020-2137
717-260-6159
FAX: 717-782-2905

Palmer Office:

301 Village at
Stones Crossing Road
Easton, PA 18045
Phone: 484-544-0146
FAX: 484-544-0147

Did you know?

A child under 13 years old is involved in a car crash every 33 seconds, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Bethlehem Township Police Department wants to make sure the children in our community are safe. We have multiple officers certified as child passenger safety seat technicians. A child passenger safety seat technician can help you install or simply double check that the safety seat is installed correctly. During the safety seat check, the officer will explain how to correctly install the seat, correct any errors in your installation, and provide information on best practices when it comes to installation and use of the seat, as well as when to upgrade to a new size. The checks are free of charge.

CHOOSE CAR SEAT BY AGE & SIZE

KNOW FOR SURE
IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT.

Ad Council VISIT SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT NHTSA Child Car Safety BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE

This is not a walk-in service. To schedule an appointment with a child passenger safety seat technician please contact our administrative office at 610-814-6426 during regular business hours.

INNOCENT & INJURED

Aggressive Legal Representation Is A Must

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- Wrongful Death/Serious Personal Injury
Slips & Falls • Dog Bites
- Personal Injury Negligence Cases
- Worker's Compensation

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2 APY = Annual Percentage Yield accurate as of 4/24/2023 and subject to change daily. Account must be opened at the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania branch to qualify for promotion. Offers apply to personal accounts only. Offer valid beginning April 24, 2023. Offer can be withdrawn at any time. eSavings account offered with eStatements only; account requires valid email, enrollment and activation of eStatements. Minimum balance required to obtain advertised annual percentage yield: \$100. Minimum deposit required to open account: \$1.00. If account requirements are not met, current interest rate of appropriate tier on Opportunity Savings will apply. \$10 monthly service charge if daily balance falls below \$100.
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is now open!*

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