



# TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016 / Winter 2017

[www.springfieldmontco.org](http://www.springfieldmontco.org)

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## Municipal Campus Update

### Construction Continues, 2017 Openings Anticipated

On March 17, 2016 the Board of Commissioners conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for the township’s new municipal campus project. Contractors have been working diligently over the last 6 months and good progress has been made on the public works and police/administration buildings, with work set to commence on the new library building later this month.

Representatives from D’Huy Engineers and Daley + Jalboot Architects updated the Board of Commissioners on the status of the project at their September 12 workshop meeting and reported that work is slightly ahead of schedule and on budget. The public works department is scheduled to take occupancy of their main building in the spring of 2017, while the police/administration and library buildings will follow in the fall. Once the public works department relocates to their new facility, the current



public works garage and accessory buildings will be demolished. In their place, new below ground stormwater management facilities will be installed, and a new parking field will be constructed to provide shared parking for the new police/administration and library buildings.

The Board was advised that the phasing plan for the project has been modified slightly by “flipping” the schedule for the library and the police/administration building. While this has delayed the start of work on the library, it has advanced the work on the police/administration building. The schedule was reversed in order to maintain required erosion and sedimentation controls behind the current public works building. The E&S controls will be modified once the public works building is demolished. The completion date for both the library and police/administration building has not changed.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

## Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

There will be no residential refuse or recycling collection on the following holidays or days celebrated as holidays:

Veterans Day	Friday,	November 11, 2016
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday,	November 24, 2016
Christmas Day	Monday,	December 26, 2016*
New Years Day	Monday,	January 2, 2017*
MLK Day	Monday	January 16, 2017
President's day	Monday	February 20, 2017
Good Friday	Friday	April 14, 2017
Memorial Day	Monday	May 29, 2017

Please note when your regularly scheduled refuse and recycling collection day falls on a legal holiday (or one celebrated as such) or when a snow emergency is declared,

**refuse collection only** will be made on the following business day. Please hold all recyclable materials at your household until the following week when they will be collected on your regular collection day.

*\* The only exceptions will occur following the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Residents located along the Monday collection route will have their refuse and recyclables collected on the following day due to the amount of recyclable materials generated during the holiday season.*

Please call the Township Information Mailbox at 215-836-7600 x 450 for changes in collection schedules and reminders about special programs and weather cancellations.

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## Municipal Campus Update *(continued from page 1)*

The construction managers were pleased to report that there have been very few adjustments to the budget. The most significant change was required when unsuitable soils were discovered during excavation for the public works buildings and a very small area for the police/administration building. The soils were removed and replaced with acceptable soils from elsewhere on site to minimize any extra cost, which was already built into the contract.

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, masonry contractors are busy completing the brick work on the public works buildings, and roofers are working on these same buildings. Over at the police/administration building, steel is being erected so that the roof can be installed. In the next two weeks work will begin on the library foundations and building pads. Later this month new underground fuel storage tanks will be installed at the public works garage. Work will continue through the winter at all three locations.

Residents are reminded that the administration, library and police departments have relocated from their Paper

Mill Road locations. Township administration and the library are temporarily housed at the former Seven Dolors Church property, 1200 East Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. The library occupies the former worship hall, which has been totally renovated and includes new restroom facilities, a community meeting room and other furnishings. The township's administrative offices, including building/zoning, code enforcement and parks and recreation, are located in the former rectory building. The police department is located at 717 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim. The Township's mailing address and telephone numbers remain the same.

For the next several months all meetings of the Board of Commissioners, Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission will be held at the Springfield Township Middle School Library, 1901 Paper Mill Road, Oreland, PA. All other advisory board meetings will be conducted at the Free Library of Springfield Township or the Township Administration Building, 1200 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. Please refer to the township website for agendas and/or changes in venue.

# REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

## Refuse Regulations

For your convenience, household refuse and recyclables are collected every week at your curbside. Refuse and recyclable materials must be placed at the curb no earlier than 7:00 p.m. on the evening prior to collection and no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection. Please return your containers to the household after they are emptied to prevent cans and lids from blowing into the street.

Township crews will remove garbage, rags, crockery and grass. Ashes must be cool to the touch and latex paint must be dry in the can. Carpeting, metal and wood must be securely tied so as not to exceed 3 feet in length or 25 pounds in weight. Large bulky items such as furniture and bedding will also be collected. All other household refuse must be placed in watertight containers not to exceed **32-gallon capacity and 50 pounds in weight.**

The Township **will not** collect appliances such as refrigerators, washers or dryers, lawn mowers, auto parts and other items containing gasoline or oil, or electronic waste such as televisions, computer hard drives, monitors and printers. In addition, all materials resulting from the repair, excavation, construction or demolition of buildings or structures must be removed by the owner of the property or the contractor performing the work.

## Refuse and Recycling Regulations for Businesses and Institutions

Refuse and recyclable materials generated from the operation of a business will not be collected by the Township. Businesses must arrange for private disposal of all waste and recyclable materials by a reputable hauling company. Local refuse and recycling haulers can be identified by searching the yellow pages and Internet.

By law, all business and institutional uses are required to establish recycling programs for paper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum containers and leaf waste. The aforementioned materials represent the minimum recycling requirements established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Springfield Township encourages all commercial enterprises to expand their recycling programs to include glass containers, plastics

and other recyclable materials. In fact, some of the area's most successful and profitable businesses have found that recycling is a more cost-effective practice than conventional waste disposal methods.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requires Springfield Township to provide recycling information to all businesses and institutions, and to enforce state and local recycling laws. If your school, business or other non-residential facility has not established a recycling program, you must do so immediately. Please contact your private waste hauler for more information about their recycling services.

## Home Yard Waste Composting

Did you know that lawn mowing, pruning, weeding and raking activities generate almost 2 million tons of yard waste each year in Pennsylvania? By practicing the three R's of yard waste management, you can help Springfield Township avoid unnecessary disposal fees and minimize the cost of processing yard waste. Please consider the following the next time you are working in your yard:

**Reduce** the amount of yard waste you create through "grasscycling." Grasscycling is the process of leaving grass clippings on your yard instead of bagging them for disposal. The clippings usually decompose in 7 – 14 days and act as a useful fertilizer to help keep your lawn green and healthy.

**Reuse** yard waste by mulching with leaves. Chip woody materials to create an ornamental mulch and to control weeds. Chippers are available for rent at local tool rental locations, or can be purchased by groups of neighbors to share as needed.

**Recycle** yard waste scraps by composting to produce a valuable soil conditioner. Composting piles do not need to be enclosed but many homeowners choose to purchase bins or build their own from spare pieces of lumber or used shipping pallets.

For more information about yard waste composting, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/> keyword: composting.

# REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

## Recycling Regulations

For your convenience, Springfield Township provides curbside recycling collection services for all residential dwellings. Materials are collected in a “single-stream” or zero sort fashion. When recyclables are collected in this manner, paper, cardboard, cans and bottles are collected together in one truck, and then separated at an automated recycling facility. All papers, magazines, cardboard, cans, bottles and plastics may be combined in one recycling container and placed at the curbside for collection on your regular collection day. In addition to being more convenient, single-stream recycling has allowed the township to eliminate one collection vehicle from our weekly program, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of our recycling program.

Springfield Township has developed the following guidelines for the proper preparation of household recyclables:

ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Wastepapers – Newspapers, junk mail, magazines, telephone books, paperback books, office paper, file folders and computer paper	Frozen food, ice cream or frozen juice containers, waxed paper or waxed cardboard
Corrugated Cardboard and Paperboard – moving boxes, beverage cartons, cereal and cracker boxes, paper towel and toilet tissue rolls, pizza boxes and all other clean cardboard	Packing materials, including Styrofoam, plastic “bubble” sheets and other foam materials
Glass – Clear, green and brown bottles and jars	Window panes, mirrors, ceramics, light bulbs, or dishware
Cans – Aluminum, steel and bi-metallic	Scrap metal or aluminum
Plastics – Containers labeled with #1 - #7 please remove lids from bottles	Plastic bags, Cellophane, Styrofoam, bubble wrap, other packing materials

## Techno-Trash e-cycling

Residents are welcome to drop off certain electronic accessories and storage media for environmentally safe recycling. The following items can be placed in the Techno-Trash box found in the Free Library of Springfield Township:

- **Printer cartridges, both inkjet and toner**
- **Hard drives, keyboards, mice, modems, routers, computer chip**
- **Any type of cable or cord**
- **Storage media (CDs, DVDs, audio and video cassette tapes and cases)**
- **Cell phones with their chargers**
- **Tablets and digital cameras**
- **Rechargeable batteries (regular batteries can go in the trash)**

Here’s what happens with these items:

- **Cell phones go to the Verizon Hopeline project, which provides victims of domestic abuse with phones enabled to dial 9-1-1 ([www.Verizon.com/about/responsibility/hopeline](http://www.Verizon.com/about/responsibility/hopeline))**
- **Printer cartridges go to Staples for recycling.**
- **Most of the rest goes to Greendisk, which creates “jobs for workers with disabilities while creating an innovative set of recycling services along with a new line of recycled products.” ([www.greendisk.com](http://www.greendisk.com))**

Please be sure to completely erase all data and sensitive information from any storage device before placing it in the Techno-Trash box.

The Techno-Trash box is a service initiated by the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission.



# REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

## Seasonal Recycling Programs Announced

**Fall Leaf Collection Program:** Beginning September 26, and continuing through the end of the year, all leaf and yard waste must be separated from regular household refuse. Leaf and yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, pine needles, tree trimmings, shrubbery, acorns and other similar garden residue.

All materials must be placed in approved biodegradable paper bags or bundled and placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the morning of your regular collection day. Fifteen (15) bags of leaves will be collected on a weekly basis. To the extent that additional bags are placed at the curbside for collection, the Township will make reasonable efforts to remove them in a timely manner. Bags must not exceed 50 pounds in weight. Tree trimmings and brush must be cut and bundled into three foot lengths not to exceed 25 pounds. Plastic bags and refuse cans containing loose leaf and garden waste will not be collected.

Biodegradable leaf bags can be purchased at most hardware and home improvement stores, as well as the Acme Supermarket in Flourtown, and the 7-11 convenience store in Wyndmoor. During the 2015 collection season, approximately 427 tons of yard waste material was recycled into mulch for residential garden use resulting in a savings of \$27,755 in refuse disposal fees.

**Christmas Tree Collection:** Christmas Trees are collected during the first three weeks of January each year. Please place your tree at the curbside on your regular refuse collection day. Please do not “wrap” your tree in plastic or leave lights or ornaments on it as it will be chipped into useful mulch and made available to residents in late winter at our property on W. Wissahickon Avenue. Please call the Township Building after February 1 for more information about the availability of this mulch.

**Monthly Yard Waste Program:** Residents are reminded that from March through August of each year, Springfield Township will conduct a drop off collection for yard waste materials on the last Saturday of the month. Yard waste must be free of all refuse, and prepared in the same manner (bagged and/or bundled) as residents would prepare leaf and yard waste during the Fall Leaf Collection program.

Springfield Township residents can drop off their organic yard waste at the Public Works Garage (located on Hawthorne Lane) from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Proof of residency is required. Commercial landscapers and residents of other municipalities will be turned away.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

### Leaf Regulations

Please be advised that Township Ordinances prohibit the depositing of leaves, grass clippings, tree branches or other debris in any street, creek or waterway within the Township. Any object that may obstruct the flow of water increases the likelihood of flood conditions during a rain event. The public works department spends significant time and resources to keep the streets and waterways free of debris. If you see anyone dumping material of any kind in the streets, creeks or waterways, please notify the police department at 215-836-1600 immediately.

In addition to creating a drainage problem, combustible material in the roadway can create a fire hazard. Vehicles parked over a pile of leaves risk the chance of catching fire. Also, leaves deposited in the street narrow vehicular travel lanes and increase the possibility of crashes.

Leaf waste may be composted on your property or placed in biodegradable paper bags for collection by the Township on your regular refuse and recycling collection day.

**NO OPEN BURNING OF LEAVES OR YARD WASTE IS PERMITTED.**

# CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

## Tree Maintenance

If you have not already done so this year, now is the time to have your trees inspected by an arborist and to prune them before winter weather sets in. Snow and ice can accumulate on tree limbs and bring down power lines when limbs and entire trees fall. An arborist can assess the health of your trees and make recommendations to reduce the likelihood of this occurring.

Pruning trees above streets and sidewalks also allows our public works crews to complete street sweeping activities in the fall, and snow plow operations in the winter. When street trees are covered with snow and ice, their limbs hang down and prohibit plow vehicles from accessing the curb lane. Trimming trees above sidewalks should also be done for pedestrian safety. Please be advised that township ordinances require trees to be trimmed to a height of not less than 12 feet above the public right of way.

## Snow Regulations

Whenever snow falls to a depth of three (3) inches or more in the Township of Springfield, or the City of Philadelphia declares a highway snow emergency, parking on the streets and highways of the Township is prohibited so that snow and ice can be removed by the public works department. If a garage, driveway or other off-street parking facility is available, all vehicles must be located off of the Township highway. If off-street arrangements are not available, parking is permitted as follows: during even numbered years parking is permitted on the even numbered side of the street; during odd numbered years parking is permitted on the odd numbered side of the street.

All residents and/or owners of property within the Township must keep their sidewalks free and clear of snow and ice. Sidewalks must be cleared within twenty-four (24) hours after the snow has stopped falling.

Please note that it is unlawful to throw, shovel or plow snow onto roads and streets within the Township. Plowing or shoveling snow onto a roadway creates hazards and icing conditions for unsuspecting drivers. Please direct all snow blowers to throw snow away from the public

roadway as the township will not return to clear snow from a previously cleared roadway.

If you are unable to remove snow or ice from your property, Springfield Township maintains a registry of local high school and middle school students who, for a fee, will clear snow from the walkways and driveways of residential properties. The consolidated list can be picked up from the township receptionist beginning November 1. Please do not wait until the day of a snow event to request the names or contact information of snow shovelers as these individuals are typically not available on short notice.

Middle School and High School students interested in being added to the snow shovel registry should contact the Township Receptionist at 215-836-7600 no later than October 31.

## Planning to Sell or Recently Buy Real Estate?

If you are planning to sell your home, please note that Springfield Township requires the owner or agent of any real property to apply for and receive a Statement of Certification (sometimes referred to as a "Use and Occupancy" or "U & O") prior to the conveyance of the property to another individual. This process takes approximately two weeks to complete and may require an in-home inspection by Township representatives. The cost is \$60.00 for a residential dwelling and \$120 for all commercial properties. It is strongly recommended that you apply for the Statement of Certification as soon as you list the property for sale so that you will have an understanding of the Township's requirements before signing an agreement of sale with the prospective buyer. Observing this timeline will also ensure that you have the necessary paperwork in hand for settlement.

If you have already purchased a property in Springfield Township, please be sure that all violations identified during the Statement of Certification process have been corrected, or are scheduled to be corrected within 6 months of settlement. These violations may include damaged curbs and sidewalks, addresses not properly posted, and sump pumps illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system. Many times money will be placed

# CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

## Planning to Sell or Recently Buy Real Estate? *(continued)*

in an escrow account to cover the cost of these repairs. Check with your realtor and/or title company to see if an escrow account has been established. Failure to make the necessary repairs to your property within 6 months from the date of settlement will result in further enforcement action being taken.

# BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

## Building and Plumbing Permits

Residents and business owners are advised that the following activities require permits to be issued by Springfield Township prior to starting any work:

BUILDING	PLUMBING	ELECTRICAL	OTHER
Roofing and Re-roofing	New and Replacement Fixtures	New Construction	Signs
Siding	Sewer Repairs and Replacement	Additions/Alterations	Roadway Occupancy
Additions	Hot Water Heaters	Swimming Pools	Roadway Openings
Windows (size change only)	Pool Pumping	Solar Equipment	Portable Storage Structures (PODS)
Alterations		Generators	Storage Tank Removal
Demolition		HVAC Equipment	
Furnace, Boiler, and A/C Condenser		Signs	
Pools		Parking Lot Lights	
Decks			
Storage Sheds			

If you are planning a construction project and are not sure if a permit is required, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Code Enforcement Department at 215-836-7600 prior to engaging the services of a contractor.

Applying for a building permit can be a lengthy process if you are a do-it-yourselfer. Please allow sufficient time for the building department to review the permit application and building plans before scheduling your contractor to begin construction. If design deficiencies are identified, you will need to resubmit the application after making the proper corrections.

**PLEASE NOTE: CONSTRUCTION MAY NOT BEGIN UNTIL A PERMIT HAS BEEN APPROVED**

## Stormwater Management Regulations

If you are planning to construct an addition or patio, erect a shed, or even widen your driveway, you may be required to install a stormwater management facility to control the runoff created by the new hard surface area. All projects that create 200 square feet or more of new impervious surface must provide stormwater controls equal to or greater than the stormwater runoff for the 100-year storm created by the proposed construction improvements. Projects that create less than 200 square feet of new impervious surface are exempt from the requirements. Please contact the Code Enforcement Department at 215-836-7600 for a copy of the township's stormwater management regulations (Ordinance No. 825) prior to finalizing your construction project and budget.

# FIRE MARSHAL

## Candle Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, an average of 25 candle fires are reported each day, representing an estimated 3% of all reported home fires. The top five days for home candle fires are Halloween, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. More than half of all candle fires occur when combustible materials such as furniture, bedding/mattresses, curtains or holiday decorations come in close contact with a burning candle. Please observe the following candle safety tips:

- **Keep candles at least 12” from anything that can burn**
- **Use sturdy candleholders and place them on a flat, level surface**
- **Avoid using candles in bedrooms**
- **Never use candles to decorate a Christmas Tree**
- **Never leave a burning candle unattended**
- **Always use a flashlight for emergency lighting**

## Christmas Tree Decorating Tips

**Locating your tree** – Christmas Trees should be placed at least three feet from any heat source, including hot air vents and hot water radiators. Be sure to locate your tree close enough to an electrical outlet so that extension cords are not necessary, and be sure that it does not block a doorway exiting the home.

**Live versus artificial trees** – If you select a “live” tree, be sure to keep it as moist as possible by watering on a daily basis. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure that it is labeled fire retardant.

**Lighting** – Use only quality lights that have been tested by an independent laboratory. Lights labeled for indoor or outdoor use should only be used as indicated. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use of string lights and never overload an extension cord. Always unplug tree lights before leaving home or going to bed

## Help the Emergency Service Personnel When It Snows

In an emergency, Police, Fire, and Ambulance personnel will need a clear, ice-free walkway to access your home. Please assist emergency personnel by clearing all walkways and driveways within 24 hours of a snowfall. If a fire hydrant is located on or near your property, please assist your local volunteer fire company by shoveling the snow away from the hydrant. Firefighters require approximately three feet in all directions to be free of ice and snow in order to properly connect hoses to a fire hydrant. The few extra minutes you spend clearing snow from your property and from a hydrant can make a big difference in an emergency.

## Keep Springfield Township Waterways Clean This Winter

The use of salt and other deicing materials to remove snow and ice can harm aquatic life and impact drinking water supplies. You can help to keep Springfield Township's waterways and groundwater clean by practicing environmentally friendly snow removal practices this winter:

- **Shovel snow before it turns to ice to eliminate the need for deicing products. Early morning is an ideal time so that the sun can melt and dry out any residual snow.**
- **Shovel snow onto permeable surfaces such as grass or planting beds. When the snow melts it will soak into the ground rather than into a nearby street, storm drain or waterway.**

If you must use deicing products, please observe the following:

- **Do not use more material than necessary.**
- **Avoid the use of deicing products near environmentally-sensitive areas such as waterways and wetlands.**
- **Use salt substitutes that are less harmful to the environment such as Calcium Chloride and Calcium Magnesium Acetate.**
- **Sweep up all excess material after the snow and ice melts to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams.**

## Protect Your Family from Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is created when fuels such as propane, natural gas, and wood burn incompletely. Heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel, as well as vehicles and generators in attached garages, are potential sources for the production of dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. CO is an invisible, odorless and colorless gas. A person can be poisoned by a very small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO in a very short period. Installation of a CO alarm will provide early warning of this dangerous gas in your home. CO alarms should have a label from a recognized testing laboratory, and homeowners should follow the manufacturer's instructions for the placement and mounting height for proper performance. CO alarms should be installed outside of the sleeping area and on every level of the home.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### 2016 Roadway Maintenance Program

Springfield Township milled and resurfaced the following streets in 2016:

#### Wyndmoor

Clodion Court – Trumbauer to cul-de-sac  
Trumbauer Court – Trumbauer to cul-de-sac  
Ardmore Avenue – Willow Grove to Evergreen  
Pleasant Avenue – Flourtown to dead end

#### Erdenheim

Preston Road – Paper Mill to Haws  
Swade Road – Paper Mill to Longfield  
Arden Lane – Preston to Swade

#### Flourtown

Carolton Way – Sunnybrook to cul-de-sac  
Cedar Lane – Carolton to cul-de-sac  
Arlingham Road – Penn to Sunnybrook  
Wedgewood Road – Haws to dead-end

In addition, portions of Mermaid Lane in Wyndmoor, and West Garden Road and Ulmer Avenue in Oreland were microsurfaced to seal and extend the life of the roadways.

## Thinking of Planting a Tree? Consider Native Plants

Fall is an ideal time to plant trees, shrubs and other plants. Yes, Arbor Day is in the spring but the best time to plant is anytime from September to November. The soil stays warm as the days get cooler, and trees and shrubs planted in the fall need less watering and are better equipped to deal with heat and drought next summer.

The Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) encourages residents to consider adding native plants and trees to your landscape. Native plants are those that have been growing in our area since before Europeans arrived. They are more pest resistant and easier to grow in our environment than non-native plants, and they provide needed food and habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife.

Non-native plants and trees do not attract the beneficial insects necessary to sustain our ecosystem. Many young birds starve each year because non-native plants and trees fail to attract the insects that young birds feed on when they are fledglings. Consider the popular "Butterfly Bush" (Buddleja species). While it is effective in attracting butterflies, this non-native shrub does not host one species of caterpillar. No caterpillars means no new butterflies. If you are interested in planting a butterfly-friendly garden, visit the Penn State Extension @ [www.extension.psu.edu](http://www.extension.psu.edu) to learn more. Not sure what plants to choose? Visit I Conserve Pennsylvania @ [www.iconservepa.org](http://www.iconservepa.org) to help select the proper plant or tree for your needs.

For residents who have stream banks on their properties, consider planting deep rooted plants and grasses to hold soil in place and stabilize stream banks instead of grass turf. Trees, shrubs, and deep rooted flowers and grasses encourage groundwater infiltration and recharge. They also require less maintenance than regular mowing and protect your stream banks from erosion. Visit Philadelphia Watersheds @ [www.phillywatersheds.org](http://www.phillywatersheds.org) for a list of recommended plantings.

## How does the Township determine which streets get paved?

Springfield Township strives to resurface its roadways every 20 – 25 years. For example, in 2016 the average age of the streets that were resurfaced was 20.4 years. Age, however, is not the only factor that determines when a street is resurfaced. In fact, it is actually one of the final factors that the township utilizes. The other factors are structural integrity, use classification, and available budget. Streets that are in an advanced state of deterioration typically

receive a higher priority over those that are in satisfactory condition. Similarly, roadways that are more frequently traveled are considered a priority over those that receive less traffic. The age of the road and annual resurfacing budget are the final factors in determining whether a street is paved in any given year. In 2016 the Township budgeted \$255,000 for roadway milling, resurfacing and microsurfacing activities.

## BCWSA Purchases Sanitary Sewer System

On December 31, 2015, the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCWSA) completed the purchase of the Township's sanitary sewer system. As a result, beginning in 2016 residents will no longer be invoiced for sanitary sewer service on their real estate tax bill. Instead, they will now receive sewer invoices on a monthly basis. The calculation of the bill is the same as in prior years except that it will be received monthly instead of annually. In fact, as part of the sale of the sanitary sewer system to BCWSA, the Board of Commissioners negotiated a two-year rate stability term so that sewer fees will be the same in 2017 as they are in 2016. However, beginning in 2018, the rates will be phased into the current BCWSA rate structure which, on a state-wide basis, are below the 50th percentile.

The decision to sell the sewer system was not entered into without several years of analysis and public discussion. Among the many reasons the Board decided to sell the sewer system was its age (over 60 years) and the need to complete very expensive repairs and upgrades to ensure its proper operation. As a small operator, Springfield Township's costs to perform the repairs are far more costly than a regional operator would be required to pay. For example, later this year BCWSA is scheduled to re-line portions of the main interceptor line that conveys a majority of the

township's sewer flows to the City of Philadelphia. Several years ago Township Engineers estimated the costs to complete this same work to be in excess of \$1 million. BCWSA's costs to perform this work will be far less, and will be spread out over a much larger customer base.

BCWSA is an independent, non-profit agency formed in 1962 under the Municipal Authorities Act. A municipal authority is an independent agency created by a government body to carry out a specific enterprise function. In the case of BCWSA, this function is to provide water and sewer services. There is no tax money utilized to sustain the Authority's operation. Instead, 100% of their income is derived from customers who use and pay for the services. As a non-profit, BCWSA does not pay dividends. Rather, they return any excess revenues to their customers through reinvestment in the infrastructure and stable rates.

BCWSA has over 100 employees to assist and serve their customers. They have a 24/7 emergency response team and customer service operations until 11 PM Monday – Friday. BCWSA offers many convenient ways for customers to pay their invoices, as well as to review accounts and usage over time. Please visit their website @ [www.bcwsa.net](http://www.bcwsa.net) or contact their office toll free at 1-800-222-2068.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

### School Zone Enforcement

Flashing yellow lights prominently identify the beginning of designated school zones in Springfield Township. A speed of 15 miles per hour must not be exceeded until the sign(s) indicating the end of the school zone is reached. The safety of children is always a priority of the police department and for that reason school zones are monitored on a daily basis. Please be advised that motorists exceeding the posted speed limit will be cited without warning.

### Unmarked Police Vehicles

Earlier this year the Springfield Township Police Department arrested an individual for impersonating a police officer as part of an unauthorized traffic stop. This type of incident is rare but is of concern to the Springfield Township Police Department. This article is intended to provide information about the use of unmarked police vehicles by your local police department.

An unmarked police car is a vehicle with no lettering or striping on it, but has emergency lights, siren and police equipment installed. Unmarked police vehicles are utilized by patrol officers for traffic enforcement and other police activities. These vehicles have a combination of flashing red, blue and white lights on the front, and red, blue and amber lights on the rear. Unmarked patrol vehicles always utilize an audible siren when performing a traffic stop or other action. The officers who operate these vehicles are dressed in a full uniform and are clearly identifiable as police officers.

Unmarked police vehicles may also be used by detectives or officers involved in special units who may perform a vehicle stop in the course of an investigation. These vehicles are not used for patrol or traffic enforcement activities, and are less conspicuous than the vehicles described above. These vehicles are equipped with flashing red and blue lights to the front and rear of the vehicle, and are always used in conjunction with a

## Curfew Regulations Resume

From September 1 to June 15 it is unlawful for any minor under the age of 18 to remain in or upon any public place or establishment in Springfield Township between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m., Sunday thru Thursday. On Fridays and Saturdays, minors must return to their homes between the hours of 11:59 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The parent of any child violating the curfew ordinance will be notified by the Police Department. If a second violation occurs, the parent may be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. It is a credit to the many responsible parents of this community that very few citations must be issued for violations of this law.

siren. The operators of these vehicles may be dressed in plain clothes but may be wearing body armor marked "POLICE" on the front and rear, or display a badge around their neck. Police personnel will be able to produce photo identification upon request identifying them as members of the Springfield Township Police Department.

If you are being stopped by an unmarked vehicle and have reason to believe that the person stopping you is not a police officer, dial 911 immediately and find a well-lit area before pulling over. Tell the dispatcher where you are located and ask for a marked police vehicle to respond to your location. The dispatcher will be able to verify if the vehicle pulling you over is operated by a police officer, and will send a marked car to your location.

Please be aware that some private vehicles may be equipped with red emergency lights (with siren) or blue courtesy lights, but not together. The use of these lights is to request that you pull over and yield the right of way, not to conduct a vehicle stop. The use of red lights and sirens are limited to Chief Officers in emergency service organizations such as fire companies, ambulance associations and emergency management. Blue courtesy lights are used by volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service members. The combination of red and blue lights may be used only on police, sheriff, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles.

# FREE LIBRARY

The Free Library of Springfield Township is buzzing with activity at 1200 E. Willow Grove Ave. Our services have not changed and our materials continue to be updated and current at our temporary location. In fact, the library has 10 computer workstations available for public use. These workstations provide Internet access and word processing, spreadsheet and power point presentation programs. Black and white printing is available for 15 cents a page. The library also offers free wireless internet service if you have your own laptop, tablet or smart phone.

In a hurry to read that newly published best seller? The library offers rental books for avid readers who cannot wait for a copy to become available. Rental books cost a dollar and can be checked out for 7 days, however, these books cannot be renewed.

The Free Library of Springfield Township has museum passes that can be checked out for 3 days. A \$5 per day overdue fine is applied for late returns. The library has the following membership cards at the circulation desk:

- **Morris Arboretum**
- **Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**
- **Woodmere Art Museum**
- **Elmwood Park Zoo**
- **University of PA Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology**
- **American Helicopter Museum**
- **National Constitution Center**
- **Battleship New Jersey**



If you are unable to find the material you need at the Free Library of Springfield Township we can search other libraries across the county and state and have the materials sent here for you to pick up. If the material is located in another MCLINC library we can request it be sent here as well.

Our reference department is here to help you. Come in person or give us a call. We are never too busy to help with your research.

The library offers free AARP tax preparation services for residents with basic tax returns. Appointments are required. Medicare Counseling is available on Mondays with a trained APPRISE volunteer. Special sessions are added during open enrollment. Appointments are required.

Need help with your tablet or laptop? Take advantage of the library's one-on-one computer tutoring classes. Sign up for a one hour class to learn Microsoft word, internet searching, and setting up e-mail.

PA Forward is the Pennsylvania Library Association's innovative action plan in libraries. It is comprised of 5 literacies: Basic, Information, Civic and Social, Health and Financial. The Free Library of Springfield Township helps educate the public in all 5 of these areas. Your library is a valuable resource for patrons of all ages and all economic circumstances. For additional information visit [paforward.org](http://paforward.org).

## Library Hours:

**Monday – Thursday 9 AM to 9 PM**

**Friday – 9 AM to 5 PM**

**Saturday – 10 AM to 5 PM  
(10AM to 2PM July through Labor Day)**

**Sunday – 1PM to 4 PM  
(Closed July through Labor Day)**

# PARKS AND RECREATION

**D**on't miss out on the township's programs & activities. Registration for all Parks and Recreation programs may be done online at [www.springfieldmontco.org](http://www.springfieldmontco.org) or at the Springfield Township Building from 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Checks, money orders or cash (exact change please) are acceptable forms of payment if registering at the Township Building. Credit card payments are accepted if registering on-line only.

## Register early for all recreation programs

Please be sure to register early for all recreation programs so that your child is able to participate in the camp, intramural program or travel league offered by the Township. Early registration allows the Department to organize teams and rosters, order t-shirts, uniforms and equipment, obtain coaches, referees and other necessary person-

## Discount Ski Tickets

The Parks and Recreation Department will once again provide discount ski tickets for all of the popular Pocono resorts. The tickets will be available from January thru April and are sold at the Township Receptionist's desk. Not only are the tickets an excellent value, but with tickets in hand, you and your family can avoid the long lines at the sales booth and spend more time on the slopes. For those who are looking for a day at the slopes without strapping on the skis, discount tubing tickets are also available for Jack Frost/Big Boulder and Blue Mountain Ski Resorts. Checks, money orders or cash (exact change please) are acceptable forms of payment. Please check the Township website for more information and registration deadlines.

Residents can find out about program dates, times and fees in weekly editions of the Springfield Sun, The Enterprise, or by viewing Comcast cable channel 28 and Verizon FiOS channel 38. Program information is also available on the Township and School District websites, and by contacting the Township Receptionist at 215-836-7600.

nel, and to schedule facilities that are necessary to make the program run efficiently and successfully. Please be sure to sign up for e-mail alerts at [www.springfieldmontco.org](http://www.springfieldmontco.org) to receive information about all recreation programs.

## Hillcrest Pond Dredging Completed

In late August contractors began drawing down the water level of Hillcrest Pond to prepare it for a mechanical dredging process. Mechanical dredging utilizes machinery to physically remove silt and sediment that accumulates in ponds or other waterbodies over a period of time. In the case of Hillcrest Pond, silt and sediment had reduced the overall pond depth so greatly that it could not be stocked with fish this past spring. After allowing the pond to dry for several days, contractors removed approximately 7,000 cubic yards of material over a period of 13 days to restore the pond to its original depth. The pond is currently filling with water and later this month the Township will be re-stocking it with fish.

# TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## Police Civil Service Commission

Edward “Ted” Bell  
Marc Perry  
Aimee Samtmann  
William Supplee  
Edward Fox, Solicitor

## Emergency Services Board

Jim Gordon, Chairman  
Mike Pitkow, Vice Chairman  
Gina Bradley  
Fran DePaul  
George B. Wilmot, III  
Charles Baily, Fire Marshal  
Glenn Schaum, Commissioner Liaison  
Mike Maxwell, Commissioner Liaison

## Library Advisory Committee

Ramona Salotti, Chairwoman  
Brenda Bott, Vice Chairwoman  
Maryanne Sunderland, Secretary  
Jack Fitzsimmons  
Kate Klemm  
Kate McGranaghan  
Elton Richardson  
Janet Waxman  
Marycatherine McGarvey, Staff Liaison  
Jeffrey Harbison, Commissioner Liaison

## Planning Commission

Robert Gutowski, Chairman  
James Mascaro, Vice Chairman  
Amanda Helwig, Secretary  
Stacey Blankin  
Joseph Devine  
Angela Murray  
David Sands  
George Schaefer  
Steve Schagrin  
Robert Dunlop, Staff Liaison  
Baird Standish, Commissioner Liaison

## Zoning Hearing Board

Ed Fox, Chairman  
Megan McDonough, Vice Chair  
Rick Simmons, Member  
Jennifer Guckin, Alternate  
Michael Savona, Solicitor  
Robert Dunlop, Zoning Officer  
James Dailey, Commissioner Liaison

## Shade Tree Committee

Jennifer Ponce, Chairwoman  
Susan Yeager, Vice Chairwoman  
Edward “Ted” Bell  
Tom Pryzblinski  
Michael Taylor, Staff Liaison  
Michael Maxwell, Commissioner Liaison

## Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

Chris Tomlinson, Chairman  
Dave Morris, Vice Chairman  
Kerry Boccella  
Walter Lapidus  
Rhonda McLaughlin  
Adrienne Smythe  
James Taylor  
Charles Carabba, Staff Liaison  
Eddie T. Graham, Commissioner Liaison

## Environmental Advisory Commission

Stephen Heverin, Chairman  
Mara Lee Baird  
Victoria Candido  
Robert Clewis  
Derek Colquhoun  
Zeta Cross  
Patrick Eddis  
Charles Baily, Staff Liaison  
Peter Wilson, Commissioner Liaison

## Municipal Campus Advisory Committee

Mary Holland, Chairwoman  
Lew Salotti, Vice Chairman  
Mara Baird  
Daniel DeCarlo  
Keith Fallon  
Michael Heffernan  
Stephen Kriz  
Dan Supplee  
Jeffrey Harbison, Commissioner Liaison

## District Justice

Honorable Kate McGill  
Magisterial District Number 38-1-08  
1316 Bruce Road  
Oreland, Pa. 19075  
215-572-7845

## Government Representatives United States Senators

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
2000 Market Street, Suite 610  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103  
215-405-9660  
  
Patrick J. Toomey  
1628 JFK Blvd., Suite 1702  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-241-1090

## United States Congress

Springfield Wards 1, 2, 4 and 7-1  
13th District  
Brendan Boyle  
115 E. Glenside Avenue, Suite 1  
Glenside, Pa. 19038  
215-517-6572  
  
Springfield Wards 3, 6 and 7-2  
7th District  
Patrick Meehan  
940 Sproul Road  
Springfield, PA 19064  
610-690-7323

## Pennsylvania Governor

Thomas W. Wolf  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120  
717-787-2500

## Pennsylvania State Senator – 7<sup>th</sup> District

Art Haywood, III  
1168 Easton Road  
Roslyn, Pa. 19001  
215-517-1434

## Pennsylvania State Representative – 154<sup>th</sup> District

Steve McCarter  
115 E. Glenside Avenue, Suite 8  
Glenside, PA 19038  
215-572-5210

## Local Taxes

Springfield Township collects the following taxes on individuals and businesses residing or working and located or conducting business within the Township:

### Earned Income Tax

Springfield Township levies a one-percent (1%) Earned Income Tax (EIT) on salaries, wages, net income from self-employed individuals and most other forms of compensation earned. A sole exception is permitted in the case of Springfield residents who work in the City of Philadelphia where the city wage tax is withheld at their place of employment and remitted directly to the Philadelphia Department of Revenue. In most instances, the EIT is withheld by employers as a payroll deduction and remitted to the Township's designated tax collector on a quarterly basis. If your employer does not withhold the tax, or if you are self-employed, you are required to file a quarterly tax payment with the tax collector directly. All township residents, whether they are employed, unemployed, retired or otherwise, must file an annual tax return with the tax collector by April 15 of every year. For information regarding the Earned Income Tax, please contact the Township's appointed tax collector, Berkheimer Tax Administrator, at 610-599-3139, or visit their website at [www.hab-inc.com](http://www.hab-inc.com).

### Mercantile Tax

The mercantile tax is imposed on gross sales receipts at the rate of 1-1/2 mills for all retail sales and 1 mill for wholesale sales. The tax is imposed on the sale of goods, wares or merchandise within the Township. Food and drink establishments are also required to pay the mercantile tax.

## Business Privilege Tax

The Business Privilege Tax of 2 mills is imposed on gross receipts. This includes the gross amount of cash, credits or property attributable to carrying on business in the Township by maintaining an office and/or rendering a professional or commercial service or transaction. This includes but is not limited to all commission, fees, rents received or any compensation received, for the performance of any service which in whole or in part is performed within the Township. The maintenance of a place of business in the Township is considered a privilege and the gross receipts shall include income derived from services performed outside the Township limits.

A Business License is required for both the Mercantile and Business Privilege taxes. Returns must be submitted to the Business Tax Collector by April 15th of each year regardless of whether the taxpayer has been granted an extension for filing their federal tax return. A penalty is imposed for late filing.

For information regarding the Mercantile or Business Privilege Taxes, please contact the Township's appointed tax collector, Tri-State Financial Group, at 610-270-9520, or visit their website at [www.tfgtax.com](http://www.tfgtax.com).

***Please be advised that it is the taxpayer's responsibility to properly report and file all Earned Income and Business Tax returns. Failure to receive annual tax forms and license applications does not excuse the taxpayer from the obligation to file a timely and correct return.***

A copy of the Springfield Township Taxpayers Bill of Rights may be obtained at the Township Administration Building, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

OFFICIAL BOARD/AGENCY	TIME	PLACE
* Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting (Monday preceding second Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Enfield M.S.
* Board of Commissioners Business Meeting (Second Wednesday)	7:30 PM	Enfield M.S.
* Zoning Hearing Board (Fourth Monday)	7:00 PM	Enfield M.S.
* Planning Commission (First & Third Tuesday)	7:00 PM	Enfield M.S.
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (First Wednesday)	7:30 PM	Library.
** Library Advisory Committee (Fourth Tuesday)	7:00 PM	Library
Emergency Services Board (First Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Admin. Bldg.
Ambulance Association (Fourth Monday)	8:00 PM	Ambulance Bldg.
Shade Tree Commission (Fourth Thursday)	7:00 PM	Admin. Bldg.
Environmental Advisory Commission (Fourth Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Library
Police Civil Service Commission (As Announced)		Admin. Bldg.
Website Enhancement Committee (As Announced)		Admin. Bldg.
Open Space Planning Committee (As Announced)		Library
Black Horse Inn Advisory Committee (As Announced)		Library
Municipal Campus Advisory Committee (As Announced)		Library

\* Public Meetings as Required by Law. \*\* Library Board meets every other month

Springfield Township is committed to accommodating any individual with a disability. If an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation is necessary to participate in any township program or meeting, please contact the office of the Township Manager at 215-836-7600 to make the necessary arrangements.



**NEWSLETTER**  
**TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD**  
1510 Paper Mill Road  
Wyndmoor, PA 19038

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Boyertown, PA  
Permit #10005

<b>TYPE OF SERVICE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
Ambulance	Springfield Ambulance Assn.	911 Emergency/215-233-4200 business
Police	Police Headquarters	911 Emergency/215-836-1601 business
Fire	Mont. Co. Fire Radio	911 Emergency
Fire Marshal	Fire Marshal's Office	215-836-7600
Administration	Manager's Office	215-836-7600
District Court	District Justice Office	215-572-7845
Library	Township Library	215-836-5300
Recreation Programs	Recreation Department	215-836-7600
Golf Memberships	Flourtown Country Club	215-233-1550
Swim Memberships	Flourtown Country Club	215-233-1550
Banquet Facilities	Flourtown Country Club	215-233-1550
Real Estate Taxes	Treasurer's Office	215-233-4040
Refuse Fee	Treasurer's Office	215-233-4040
Sewer Emergencies	Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority	215-343-3946
Sewer Invoices	Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority	215-343-2538
Earned Income Tax	Berkheimer Tax Administrator	610-599-3139
Mercantile Tax	Tri-State Financial Group	610-270-9520
Business Privilege Tax	Tri-State Financial Group	610-270-9520
Building Permits	Building Office	215-836-7600
Plumbing Permits	Plumbing Office	215-836-7600
Health Licenses	Montgomery County Health Dept.	610-278-5117
Potholes/Street Repair	Public Works Office	215-836-7600
Snow/Ice Removal	Public Works Office	215-836-7600