



# Quakertown

## QUARTERLY

*The Heart of Upper Bucks County. A Great Place to Live, Work and Play!*

Volume 3

Winter 2011 Newsletter

**SNOW** — Every child has a dream of playing in the snow, a cancelled school day and drinking hot chocolate. Adults think of taking a walk and seeing the beautiful sights, then shoveling and more shoveling. Often when we hear the word "snow", mixed emotions kick in and we start to panic to make sure that we have everything we need.

Here are a few bits of information that would be helpful for an effortless winter season ahead:

To maintain the Borough of Quakertown, we have 15 pieces of equipment which consists of 12 plow trucks & 3 backhoes. We have 17 drivers who plow snow and salt the Borough streets. The Borough is divided into 8 different sections for snow plowing and 6 sections for salting. We plow throughout the night and day until the streets are clear and safe.

If you have a storm drain in front of your residence or at another part of your street where no one resides, please make sure that it is kept clear. This helps flooding and other incidents from occurring.

Keep fire hydrants clear of snow. It is very important that if there is a fire hydrant in front of your residence or near you to make sure that it is shoveled clear. This will assist the Fire Department in a time of need. By locating the fire hydrant, the Fire Department will have a speedy response to water access in emergencies.

Once the major streets and side streets are plowed after a storm, the Borough starts to clear corners at intersections, sidewalks, and parking lots. We do the best we can to make sure that all roads are passable and clear and safe.

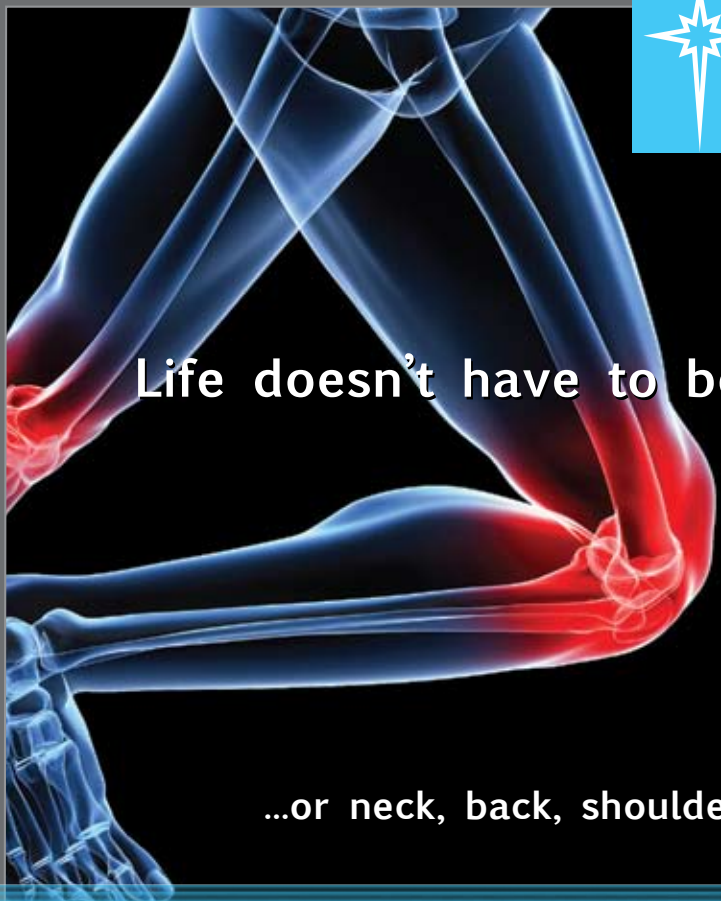
When we have storm or a substantial amount of snow, we clear the downtown businesses on W. Broad Street. We will have the street posted the night before and will start very early in the morning before the opening of businesses and rush hour. We realize that this is an inconvenience but must be done.

*...continued on page 4*

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Emergency - - Fire, Ambulance or Police dial 9-1-1

- Borough Hall..... 215-536-5001
- Utility Billing ..... 267-347-5009
- Police Administration ..... 215-536-5002
- Police Non-Emergency Dispatch..... 215-795-2931
- Electric Department ..... 215-536-5003
- Wastewater Department ..... 215-536-5004
- Highway Department ..... 215-536-5005
- Water Department..... 215-536-5855
- Swimming Pool..... 215-536-5235
  
- 24-hour Anonymous Crime Tip Line..... 267-371-5094
  
- Utility Emergency after hours ..... 215-721-3520

The Borough office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For your convenience, utility payments can be made at the drive through area located behind Borough Hall. When the office is closed, utility payments can be deposited in the side door of Borough Hall.

Borough Council’s regular meeting is normally the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The work session meeting is usually the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Council Chambers is handicap accessible. If you want to confirm a meeting date, please check our website at [www.quakertownboro.com](http://www.quakertownboro.com).

Planning Commission Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

## Large Trash Pick Up for 2011

January							February							March							
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30	31																				

Dates in red are designated larger trash pick up weeks.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 23rd-24th:** Christmas Holiday  
Borough Hall Closed  
No Disruption of Trash Pick up
  
- December 27th:** Christmas Tree Pick ups Begin!  
Put trees out with Regular trash  
the night before pick up.  
For tree disposal questions contact  
Ches-Mont 1-866-871-9953
  
- December 31st:** New Year’s Holiday  
Borough Hall Closed  
No Disruption of Trash Pick up
  
- January 17th:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday  
Banks Closed  
Borough Hall Open
  
- February 21st:** President’s Day  
Banks Closed  
Borough Hall Open



## SNOW

*.continued from cover*

The placement of objects in the street is prohibited. The Borough disapproves of the use of chairs, trash cans, or any other object to reserve a parking space. Additionally, all portable basketball poles & nets must be away from the curb line.

Please keep an open mind this winter season in helping out your neighbor and know that if we all remain calm everything will work out.

### When does snow removal and/or salt spreading begin?

Snow plowing begins approximately after 2 or more inches have gathered on the streets and salting begins at the start of the storm and sometimes before the storm even hits.

### When will my street be plowed?

The Borough plows the major streets first and then goes to the secondary/side streets. We have a crew out for different sections of the Borough at all times.

### Where should I park?

If possible off street which will allow us to push the snow to provide more parking after the storm.

### Will my cul-de-sac be plowed?

Yes

### Should we move our cars from the street?

Yes, if at all possible. The closer we get the plow to the curb, the more parking you will have (and less shoveling you will have to do) and the less chance your street will flood should rain follow.

### How wide of a path will the plows clean?

As wide as possible.

### Why does it take so long to plow the streets?

We have over 21 miles of Borough roads to plow, 6 miles of state roads and 2 miles of turn back roads along with paved alleys.

### Who is responsible for clearing sidewalks?

The Borough is responsible for Borough owned sidewalks and homeowners are responsible for the sidewalks in front of their residence.

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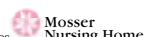
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# WATER CONSERVATION

If you are concerned with your recent water bill and feel your usage is too high, then go green. Below are water saving tips which can help save money. Using less water directly impacts the charges on your utility bill. Your sewer bill is based on water consumption, so your water conservation will impact your sewer charges as well. Your electric bill is affected by operating an electric hot water heater. You will reduce your electric bill by reducing the amount of hot water you consume through the day.

## Other water saving tips:

- Turning off the water while brushing your teeth can save 4 gallons of water per minute. That adds up to about 200 gallons per week for a family of four.
- Turning off the water while shaving can save more than 100 gallons of water per week.
- Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons of water each month.
- Taking a shower instead of a bath can save 30 gallons of water. Filling the bathtub uses about 50 gallons of water.
- Keeping a shower under 5 minutes can save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- Turning off water while shampooing and conditioning hair can save 50 gallons a week.
- Using a water-saving showerhead can save a family of four 500 gallons a week.
- Running a dishwasher and washing machine only when they are filled can save 1,000 gallons a month.
- Choosing a water-saving model when replacing a washing machine can save up to 20 gallons per load.
- Using a hose nozzle and turning off the water while washing your car can save more than 100 gallons of water.
- Choosing landscaping that has low water requirements. Not having to water shrubs can save 550 gal per season.

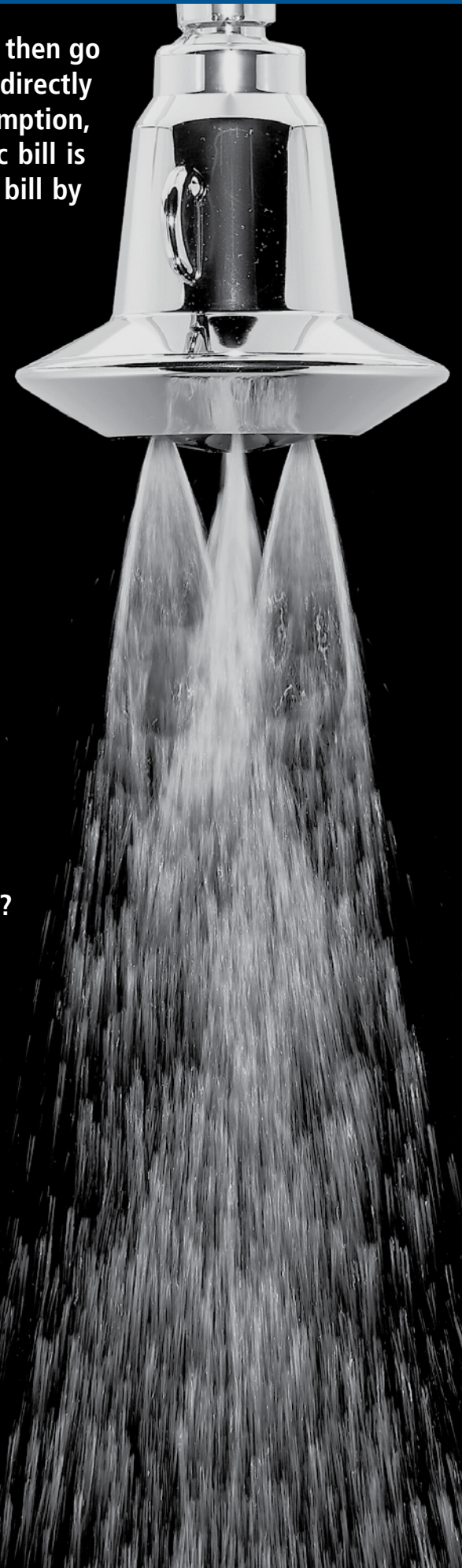
Did you know that an average of 8% of all home water use is wasted through leaks? If you think you have leaks in your home, there are several ways to find out.

**1. Water Meter** - Read your water meter when you leave for work in the morning, then read it when you return home. If there has been water usage and no one is home, you may have a leak.

**2. Toilet** - The toilet is a big culprit for water leaks. One way to check your toilet for leaks is to turn off the water to the toilet. Remove the lid to the tank and mark the water level. **DO NOT FLUSH THE TOILET DURING THIS TEST.** Leave the toilet sit a few hours and check your water level; if it has dropped, you have a leaking toilet! Another way to conduct this test is to put food dye in the tank. Leave the toilet alone for a few hours. Again, do not flush during this time. When you check the toilet, if there is colored water in the bowl, you have a leak. Contact a professional plumber to help repair this problem.

**3. Old Toilet** - If you have an older toilet and cannot replace the toilet with a low flow water conserving toilet put a brick in the tank. This will displace some extra water and you will not notice the difference when you flush. Every toilet flush you eliminate can save between two and seven gallons of water depending on the type of fixture.

**4. Outdoor Faucet.** An outdoor faucet can freeze in winter and break, creating a leak that is not easily noticed by a homeowner. Again, consult a plumber if you think you have a leak in your plumbing.





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## Feral Cats

Feral cats have become a concern and nuisance in numerous areas of the Borough.

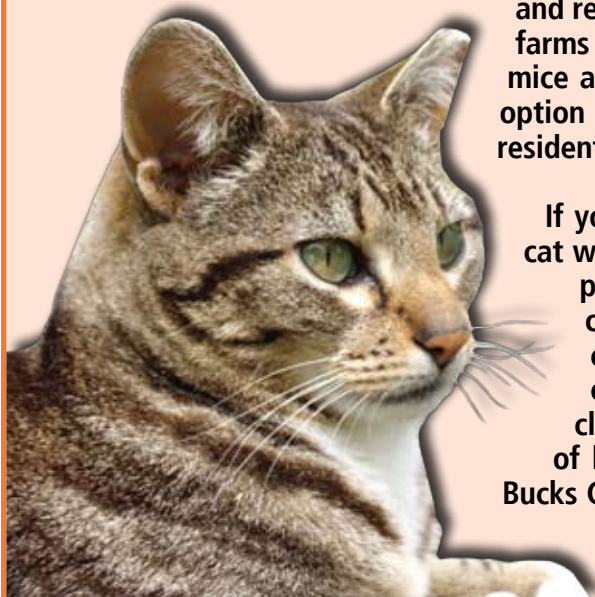
Feral cats deserve caretaking just as much as the kitties that live with us. They are often victims of abandonment, accidental loss, and failure by owners to spay or neuter their pets. Here's how to help ferals in your community.

It's easy to confuse a feral cat with a stray cat (Hint: feral cats are the offspring of lost or abandoned pet cats or other feral cats who are not fixed). They don't easily adapt, or may never adapt, to living as pets in close contact with people, but they still need our help. Many don't survive; if they do, their lives aren't easy without human caretakers.

Free-roaming cats can have an impact on wildlife, and it is important that this also be acknowledged as part of the dynamic of dealing with feral cats.

The first and foremost is, you should NOT feed feral cats! They will become dependent upon you and bring their kittens home to meet you. You will wind up with more and more animals. Do not attempt to trap the cat yourself as you can be injured as well as the animal. There are groups who will trap, neuter and relocate these wild cats to farms to help control pests like mice and rats. This is the best option for both the cat and the residents of the Borough.

If you find you have a stray cat which can be approached, petted or held, try to contain the pet until you can find the owner. You can call local veterinary clinics that take reports of lost pets, or contact the Bucks County SPCA at 215-794-7425.



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## Parking in Quakertown

The Quakertown Police Department recognizes that parking can sometimes be a challenge especially in some of the more congested areas of the Borough. Residents can do their part to lessen the parking issues by removing trash and recycling containers from the street or curb as soon as possible after they are emptied by the trash carrier.

Borough ordinance requires that containers be placed outside no earlier than 6:00 PM on the day before collection and be removed no later than 7:00 PM on the day of collection.

Portable basketball nets should not be placed in the street under any circumstance. They not only put the individuals using them at risk of being hit by a motor vehicle but they are also a nuisance to the Highway Department when they attempt to remove leaves or snow from the street.

Finally the roadway is a public area; therefore, the placing of objects in the street to save parking spots is prohibited. Be considerate of your neighbors and work together to lessen parking difficulties.

## What is the Dog Law?

Dog Law affects all of Pennsylvania's dog owners. Allowing a dog to run loose is a violation of the Dog Law. It's time for a short course...

What is the Dog Law? It is the statute that contains provisions commonly thought of as the "leash law". It requires licensing of all dogs over 3 months of age. It also requires kennels to be licensed, and includes provisions for inspecting and regulating kennels including large commercial kennels (which are sometimes referred to as puppy mills), nonprofit kennels like animal shelters, boarding kennels and all places that keep a cumulative total of more than 26 dogs in the course of a year. The Dog Law also contains a section on rabies vaccination which requires all dogs over 3 months of age to be vaccinated and all cats to be vaccinated if they spend any part of a 24 hour day inside a dwelling. (Cats that spend all of their time outside are not required by law to be vaccinated).

If a dog does damage to livestock the Dog Law contains provisions for the livestock owner to be reimbursed from the Dog Law Restricted Account. Dangerous dogs are also covered. If a dog attacks a person or other domestic animal without provocation, a hearing can be held before a judge where evidence is presented to have the dog declared dangerous. Owners who choose to keep dangerous dogs must carry extra insurance and take additional precautions so their dog is not a danger to others. The Dog Law also contains a section that requires that dogs and cats adopted from shelters or pounds in Pennsylvania must be spayed or neutered, either before they leave the shelter or soon after. It is a lengthy and complex law that covers a variety of topics related to dogs.

Who enforces the Dog Law? The Dog Law is enforced by police, or animal control officers hired local municipalities, and by state dog wardens who are employees of the Department of Agriculture. Dog wardens are the only officers with jurisdiction to inspect kennels and enforce kennel regulations. Humane society police officers cannot enforce the Dog Law. The only law that they have jurisdiction to enforce is Section 5511 of the PA Crimes Code, which covers cruelty to animals. It is no wonder that members of the public are sometimes confused about where to report a problem.

What if I have dog problems? If you have a problem with a nuisance unknown dog on your property, contact the Borough Police Department who will come and get the animal and take it to our holding kennel. Attempts will be made to identify the owner of the dog. If proof of ownership can not be found, the animal will be transported to the SPCA for adoption.

I lost my dog, what do I do? When you realize your pet is missing begin checking with your friends and neighbors who may have your pet. Call the local veterinary clinics to see if they have gotten reports of a found dog. Then call the Borough Police Department at 215-536-5002 to report the animal missing and see if there were any reports of a found dog. If your dog is found and picked up by the Police Department they will help you be reunited with your pet. Note that the Borough of Quakertown is required to charge for the housing and care of the animal on a per diem basis.

One of the best ways to ensure your pet comes home to you is to license your dog, and remember it is the law.



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# QUAKERTOWN Alive! NEWS

Quakertown Alive! would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. As we head into the new year there are many things that will be happening including all of our major events.

The kick off of the festival season will begin with Arts Alive which is being held on May 21, 2011.



Quakertown Alive! would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped us with our many events throughout the year. Their selfless donation of hours in the office, at home, and at our events has made a big difference in reaching our goals over this past year. They have shown a strong commitment to give back to their community and we at Quakertown Alive! are very thankful for their support.

## General Information on Sewers

Clean water is something most of us take for granted. The Borough, however, spends a considerable amount of time and effort to ensure that the water quality in our creeks, streams, rivers, and oceans is clean.

Water produced naturally (from rain or melting snow) and water from human and household waste (toilets, sinks, bathtubs, showers, dishwashers and washing machines) is processed through a series of storm sewers or sanitary sewers - massive underground pipes systems made from either terra cotta or plastic.

### Points to remember:

- Sanitary sewer backups and your homeowner's coverage. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not automatically include coverage for sewer-related damage expenses. If a sewer backup should occur there is potential for significant loss. It is advisable for homeowners served by a public sewer system, particularly those with a finished basement, to obtain some level of coverage.
- Storm sewer lines may not be connected to sanitary lines. In compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection requirement, the Borough is responsible for the testing of illegal storm water tap-ins to sanitary sewer systems.
- Maintenance of Lateral Sewer Lines. The lateral sewer lines from homes that are connected to Borough sewer lines are the responsibility of the property owner. The homeowner is responsible for correcting a sewage backup problem if the trouble is due to the lateral lines.
- Manholes are not to be covered or buried. Manholes provide access to sewers for maintenance. They must be kept uncovered so they are quickly available in the event of a sewer emergency and to conduct tests and maintenance on the sewer system.
- Keep sewer easements open. Trees, valuable plantings, and structures other than easily moved fences should not be planted or erected on a sewer easement. An easement location can be determined from a property survey or by observing the location of manholes. The imaginary line between two manholes is generally the location of an underground sewer line. An easement is a minimum of 15 feet wide.
- Roots from trees may damage or clog sewer pipes. Trees, valuable plantings, and structures must be removed to maintain or repair sewers. The Borough does not replace or pay for the replacement of these items and incurs additional costs in removing them for maintenance or repair of the lines.
- Do not grade over sewers. No cutting or filling of earth over sewers is permitted without approval of by Borough. Such grading can crush and damage sewers or make them inaccessible for future maintenance and repair.
- Use Common Sense in Disposing of Waste. Do not flush diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, tampon applicators, etc. in toilets. These materials lodge in lateral lines and clog processors at pump stations causing backups in the sewage system.
- Don't pour solvents, pesticides, paint thinners, engine oil, or household cleaning products with hazardous chemicals down the drain or into storm sewers. Every September there is a hazardous waste drop off at the pool parking lot or contact the Waste Management Chemist in the DEP Regional Office or call the PA HHW Hotline at 1-800-346-4242.
- Use Water Wisely. Fix leaks and install water-saving devices and appliances. In addition to the environmental benefits you should see a reduction in water bills and sewer usage fees.



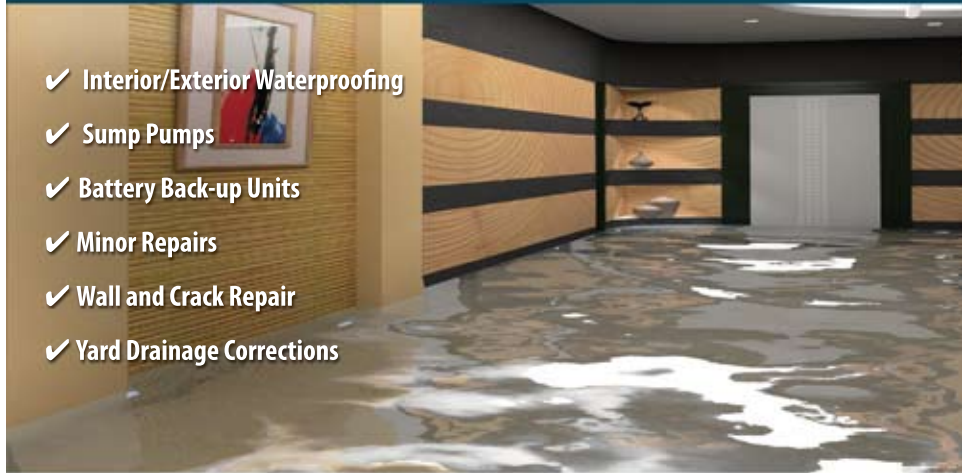
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# Snow Removal

Every person in the Borough who owns or maintains any building or parcel in the Borough fronting or abutting on a paved sidewalk in the residential or business district, shall remove and clear away, snow and ice forming a path of at least 24 inches in width. The time limitation is 36 hours for the removal of snow, sleet or freezing rain. If there should happen to be a declared state of emergency the time limit is 36 hours after the termination of that emergency.

If the snow and ice on a sidewalk becomes so hard that it cannot be removed without the likelihood of damage to the sidewalk, then the person in charge of the removal shall place sand or other abrasive materials on the sidewalk to make travel on the sidewalk reasonably safe; and then, as soon afterward as weather permits, remove the snow and ice by forming a minimum 24" pathway. The snow shall not be removed in such a way that it is deposited on the roadway or vehicular traveled portions of the street.

In the event that the sidewalk does not get cleared, the Borough Manager has the authority to have those sidewalks cleaned at the expense of the owner or the person in charge at a rate of 10% above the calculated cost of the work.



**Thank You!**



**QUAKERTOWN VETERINARY CLINIC, PC**  
2250 N. Old Bethlehem Pike  
Quakertown, PA 18951  
Small Animal: 215-536-6245  
Equine/Large Animal: 215-536-2726

## Quakertown Veterinary Clinic

The Quakertown Police Department would like to thank the clinic and the doctors for their continued support of our K-9 units.




## Quakertown Veterinary Clinic

Small Animal 215-536-6245  
Equine/Large 215-536-2726

## Residential Guide to Zero-Sort Recycling



**NO NEED TO REMOVE:**  
Paper clips, stamps, address labels, staples, metal fasteners, cellophane address windows, rubber bands, spiral bindings, plastic tabs

Please flatten cardboard boxes  
Empty and rinse all containers.

**Please follow these guidelines carefully.**

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800-710-1333  
[www.chesmont.com](http://www.chesmont.com)

**NO**

- Scrap metal
- Plastic bags
- Plastic lids & caps
- Plastic 6-pack holders
- Needles or syringes
- Plastic microwave trays
- Frozen food, ice cream or frozen juice containers
- Window panes, mirrors, ceramics & Pyrex dishware
- Plastics other than those listed
- Paint, pesticides, oil & cleansers
- Stickers or address label sheet waste
- Waxed paper or waxed cardboard
- Styrofoam or paper to-go containers
- Organic material and food waste
- Electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers, etc.)



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# A Typical Treatment Plant: Clean Water Step by Step

## A Typical Treatment Plant: Clean Water Step by Step

Clean water is critical for sustaining life and health, yet people often take for granted the flow of water in and out of their homes. Where does it go after we flush the toilet or empty the sink, and how does it safely find its way back into the environment? Wastewater from homes, businesses, industries, and institutions drains into a community's sanitary sewer system, an underground network of pipes that leads to the wastewater treatment plant. At the wastewater treatment plant the used water is cleaned and returned to the environment to be used over and over again.

These complex treatment processes are essential to the protection of our water resources. There are no holidays for wastewater treatment — in fact most plants operate 24/7 to meet clean water standards on a continuous basis.

### Your Treatment Plant Team Protects Water Quality—and the Environment

Treatment of wastewater is a relatively modern practice. While sewers were common in ancient Rome to carry away wastes, it was not until the 19th century that cities began to understand the effects of wastewater on the environment. Since then, the practice of clean water collection and treatment has undergone substantial engineering improvements, and many state and federal regulations have been enacted.

Our plant employs people skilled in environmental engineering, chemistry, biology, microbiology, and public policy to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the treatment process. Clean water production requires programs for maintenance and repair of equipment, upgraded operator skills, attention to safety, energy conservation, process efficiency, and up-to-date treatment and analytical technologies. Each plant's treatment team is committed to a cleaner environment, and as a result of their continuous attention, public health and water quality are better protected today than ever before.

Most homes, businesses, and institutions are connected to a sewer system that carries their wastewater to a treatment plant. Sanitary sewer systems carry only domestic and industrial wastewater, while combined sewer systems also carry stormwater runoff. Wastewater in these systems flows mostly by gravity with occasional help from pumps, until it reaches the treatment plant. At the plant, wastewater is typically treated through a series of five major steps: preliminary treatment, primary treatment, secondary treatment, tertiary treatment, and disinfection, followed by processes to reuse or to dispose of the remaining products. This treatment requires an intricate balance of physical, biological, and chemical processes.

### Step 1: Preliminary Treatment

This step includes screening to remove large objects (such as sticks, rags, leaves, and trash) and the settling of grit (heavy, sandy, abrasive matter). The removed material is

collected and discarded, and the remaining flow moves on to primary treatment.

### Step 2: Primary Treatment

In this phase, the flow is slowed to allow large particles of solid organic matter to settle by gravity to the bottom of settling basins known as sedimentation tanks or clarifiers. Primary treatment can remove 50% or more of the solids from the wastewater.

### Step 3: Secondary Treatment

Wastewater flowing out of primary treatment still contains solid matter, mostly dissolved or suspended in the water. Secondary treatment plant processes are designed to grow naturally occurring microorganisms to digest the solids in the wastewater and then to settle to the bottom of a secondary sedimentation basin. After secondary treatment, 85% to 90% of the solids have been removed from the wastewater.

### Step 4: Tertiary (or Advanced) Treatment

Tertiary treatment is used to improve the quality of the water even more. The most common systems remove minute suspended solids, and also nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

### Step 5: Disinfection

Disinfection reduces remaining bacteria and viruses in the final effluent and helps protect the public from exposure to pathogens. Alternatives for disinfection include chlorination followed by dechlorination, exposure to varying intensities of ultraviolet light, and the infusion of ozone.

### Reuse and Recycling

Wastewater treatment produces two major products: clean water, which is used over and over again, and treated solids, known as biosolids. The cleaned wastewater is released to a waterway, such as a lake, stream, river, or underground aquifer, where it is often used again in ways such as golf course and landscape irrigation or even for recreation or drinking water. Some of it will evaporate into the atmosphere and return as rain in some other part of the world. The biosolids can be recycled in a variety of ways: applied as a fertilizer/soil conditioner, burned to produce energy, or used as a filler or binder in construction products.

### Your Support Can Help

Your support for efficient wastewater treatment is extremely important to the vitality of your community. Start by learning as much as you can about your local wastewater treatment plant and then make a difference through your support for measures to protect and improve clean water infrastructure. Clean water is everyone's right and responsibility.

To learn more about protecting water and wastewater infrastructure, visit [www.waterislife.net](http://www.waterislife.net).



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# Rules of the Road for Winter Driving

When was the last time you read the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual?

For most people it was likely the first time you obtained your driver's license. Recently there has been new laws created that are important to learn. The following laws are quoted from the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code: Title 75.

## Clearing off your vehicle:

As winter approaches, it is required to clear all the snow and ice from your vehicle. Clearing the snow and ice off your vehicle prevents any hazards and provides an unobstructed view.

### 3720. Snow and ice dislodged or falling from moving vehicle.

When snow or ice is dislodged or falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious bodily injury as defined in section 3742 (relating to accidents involving death or personal injury), the operator of the vehicle from which the snow or ice is dislodged or falls shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense.

## Headlights:

If you need to activate your windshield wipers due to weather conditions, your headlights are now required to be turned on.

### 4302. Periods for requiring lighted lamps.

(a) GENERAL RULE.-The operator of a vehicle upon a highway shall display the lighted head lamps and other lamps and illuminating devices required under this chapter for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles, at the following times:

- (1) Between sunset and sunrise.
- (2) Any time when the operator cannot discern a person or vehicle upon the highway from a distance of 1,000 feet due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, smoke or smog.
- (3) Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture, including rain, snow, sleet or mist.

## Steer Clear:

If you come upon an incident along the side of the road that involves an emergency responder please remember to "steer clear". This means that motorists are required to move at least one lane away from the incident. If you can't move to another lane, motorists are required to slow down.

### 3327. Duty of driver in emergency response areas.

(a) GENERAL RULE.-When approaching or passing an emergency response area, a person, unless otherwise directed by an emergency service responder, shall:

- (1) pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response area, if possible; or
- (2) if passing in a nonadjacent lane is impossible, illegal or unsafe, pass the emergency response area at a careful and prudent reduced speed reasonable for safely passing the emergency response area.

(b) PENALTY.-Any person violating subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not more than \$250.

(b.1) SUSPENSION OF OPERATING PRIVILEGE.-The department shall suspend the operating privilege of any person for 90 days upon receiving a certified record of the driver's conviction, adjudication of delinquency or admission into a preadjudication program for a violation of subsection (a), if the certified conviction indicates the violation resulted in serious injury to another person. The license shall be surrendered in accordance with section 1540 (relating to surrender of license). "Emergency response area." The area in which emergency service responders render emergency assistance to individuals on or near a roadway or a police officer is conducting a traffic stop or systematic check of vehicles as long as the emergency vehicle is making use of visual signals meeting the requirements of subchapter D of Chapter 45.



"Emergency service responder." An individual acting in an official capacity as police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, deputy coroner, firefighter, fire police, fire marshal, medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, rescue personnel, ambulance personnel, towing and recovery personnel, highway maintenance and construction personnel, hazardous material response team member or emergency medical service personnel.

Ptlm. Robert Lee  
Quakertown Borough  
rlee@quakertownboro.com



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## Krupp Property Steering Committee

Borough Council appointed a steering committee in 2007 to address the potential development of the borough-owned Krupp property into a passive use park. The Krupp site is an approximate 17 acre parcel north of Mill Street near the Bucks County Library. The Steering Committee has been meeting regularly and is in the process of developing a master plan for the park facility. The creation of the master plan is an important step to take the conceptual ideas to the next step in the development of the project.

The Krupp facility is envisioned to become a first class park, including walking trails, gardens, a water feature and a permanent band shell. The Steering Committee has spent considerable time and effort meeting with professional engineers and land use specialists in order to identify what would make the park space a beautiful and long-lasting addition to the town's existing park system and provide our residents and visitors with an attractive place to congregate, walk, sit and read, or take in an outdoor concert or movie.

The Steering Committee and Borough Council had previously awarded a contract to prepare the master plan to an engineering firm in 2009. Unfortunately, as a result of the economy, the engineering firm hired disbanded before the project began. A new engineering company will assist the Steering Committee in creating the master plan, with a goal of completion of the master plan by late summer 2011. A public meeting is anticipated for Spring 2011 where residents and interested parties can have input on the concepts for use of the Krupp property.

Comments or questions can be directed to the Steering Committee by mail: Krupp Property Steering Committee, 35 North Third St, Quakertown, PA, 18951 or email at [manager@quakertownboro.com](mailto:manager@quakertownboro.com).

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Upper Bucks.....Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition  
70% of people who abuse prescription pain relievers get them from friends or relatives "SAMHSA, 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health"

According the 2010 UBHCHY survey, 11% of Quakertown 12th graders have abused prescription drugs in the last month

Studies by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have detected pharmaceutical drugs in varying concentrations in our nation's water supplies.

Safe disposal of prescription medications will help reduce pharmaceutical drugs in our water supply.



Questions???  
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# Winter Electrical Safety

## OVERVIEW

Statistics show that sales of electrical products increase during December. The advent of colder weather in many parts of the country, combined with the purchase of electronic products, provides an opportunity to review safety tips on the purchase and use of electrical products. Large electrical appliances are a major cause of electrocutions. Make sure appliances are purchased from reputable dealers and have been certified by testing labs, such as CSA, UL or ETL. Using a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) can help avoid electric shock. Portable generators and portable heaters see frequent use during colder months. Following manufacturers' instructions is the first step in avoiding electrical hazards.

Power strips and extension cords do not provide more power, but increase access to electrical outlets. As we try to meet 21st century power needs in homes and buildings with too few outlets to meet needs, our use of power strips and extension cords increases. Use of improperly rated extension cords and power strips is among the causes of thousands of electrical fires each year. The introduction of counterfeit electrical products into the marketplace is on the rise. Counterfeit electrical products, which have not met testing and safety standards, can cause death, injury and property damage. To avoid electrical hazards caused by counterfeit electrical products, again, purchasing products from reputable distributors and retailers, and checking certification marks, such as CSA, UL or ETL to verify safety.

## Appliances, Electronics and Lighting



If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics. Check the wattage of bulbs in lamps and light fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage. Replace bulbs that have

a higher than recommended wattage as they are a fire hazard. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely because loose bulbs can overheat. Halogen lamps operate at high temperatures. Make sure halogen bulbs do not come into contact with draperies, clothing or other flammable materials.

Combined with shorter days and moving the clocks back to standard time, parents and caregivers often turn to lamps and nightlights to help small children become accustomed to the dark. A number of such lamps and nightlights manufactured and sold today with cartoon-like designs may have a toy-like appearance and are attractive to children. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is warning parents and caregivers that such lights can pose safety hazards when not used properly, and recommends these safety tips:

Parents and other caregivers should operate electrical lamps and other equipment. Small children should never be allowed to operate portable lamps or nightlights.

Children should not plug in or unplug portable lamps or nightlights. Instead, remind children to ask an adult for help.

Parents should check to make sure the proper wattage bulb is being used in lights. Consumers should handle nightlights carefully to ensure that the plug blades are fully inserted into the receptacle. Use caution when handling nightlights, and avoid twisting or using pressure, which can cause components to break off and expose wiring. This can result in risks of electrical shock and burns.

Consumers should make sure the nightlights or lamps they purchase have a safety certification mark, such as the CSA, UL or ETL. To avoid disaster, children

need to be aware of improper uses of electric items and the consequences of unsafe behavior. Practicing safe electrical habits early in life will be valuable throughout adulthood.

## For Happy Holidays, Follow Electrical Safety Tips

Always keep electrical safety in mind when decorating for the holiday season. In the Fall Quakertown Quarterly was an in-depth article on holiday decorating safety, please refer to this article for many important tips.

## Portable Heater Safety

There are safety tips and precautions regarding space heaters, baseboard, and in-wall heaters as you head into cooler weather:



Electric in-wall fan heaters should be cleaned a minimum of twice per year.

Keep all furniture, draperies, and other household objects at least three feet from the in-wall fan heaters and 12 inches from baseboard heaters. Keep portable space heaters at least three feet away from all flammable materials, such as furniture and draperies.

Plug portable space heaters directly into the outlet; do not use an extension cord.

If an in-wall or baseboard heater is shut off at the circuit breaker, be sure to lock or tag the circuit breaker to prevent someone from inadvertently turning it back on.

If installing a new heater, read all information labels, follow all safety precautions, and verify the electrical supply wires are rated high enough for the electrical demand of the heater. If in doubt contact an electrician or a plumber for verification of proper installation.

Some portable space heaters, electric in-wall fan heaters and baseboard heaters have been subject to product recalls. Check your brand and model number and visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for possible information on your heater.



## Portable Electric Generators

Portable electric generators are a good source of power for heat, light, refrigeration and cooking during electrical outages. But, if generators are improperly installed or operated, they can become deadly. Safety awareness can prevent needless deaths:

Never operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including homes, garages and basements. Generators produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, a colorless, odorless, deadly gas.

Keep the generator dry. To protect it from moisture, operate the generator on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure.

Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated in watts or amps at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.



Do not connect your generator directly to your household wiring, as this can backfeed along the power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs.

Make sure the generator is properly grounded.

Do not overload the generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment or appliances.

Make sure fuel for the generator is stored safely, away from living areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. And before re-fueling, always turn the generator off and let it cool down.

Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.

As always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation and maintenance.

## KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM PORTABLE GENERATORS AT ALL TIMES.

### Electrical Cord Safety



Extension cords, with their ability to bring any appliance or lamp within easy reach of an electrical outlet, are one of the most convenient products in the home. But when they are misused, they can also be a source of potential danger.

Extension cords are generally rated in amps and volts. To determine if an extension cord is properly rated, add the total wattage of each bulb or electrical device, then divide by 120 to calculate the total number of amps. If the total number of amps is equal to or greater than the maximum rating of the cord, you must use a higher rated extension cord.

If you were to use a thin cord for a device that draws a lot of current, such as an electric space heater (which should be plugged directly into the outlet), the cord could overheat and start an electrical fire.

Select the right cord for the job. Larger appliances and power tools use cords with three prongs, or conductors, one of which is the ground wire. Choose a replacement cord with the correct insulation.

Electric space heaters, for example, are required to use cords with a thermosetting insulation to prevent the cord from melting. Look for the letter "H" on the cord. Lamp cords are usually flat, and the individual conductors parallel to each other. This type of cord is limited to indoor use and light duty. Appliance cords are usually round and have larger diameters because they are made using two layers of insulation over the copper conductors. The individual conductors are insulated and a second layer of insulation, called a jacket, is also applied.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that over 300 people are killed or injured each year as a result of fires caused by extension cords. The CPSC reports that improperly functioning extension cords cause 3,300 residential fires annually. To reduce extension cord hazards:

Never run extension cords through walls, under rugs or furniture, or across doorways.

Never try to repair a damaged extension cord with electrical tape; instead, replace it.

Never overload an extension cord. If any part of the cord feels warm to the touch, the cord is drawing too much power and could present a fire or shock hazard.

Never cut off the ground pin to connect a 3-prong appliance cord to a 2-wire extension cord or receptacle. Always use a CSA, UL or ETL listed adapter for this purpose.

Replace older extension cords if one of the prongs in the plug is not "polarized." In a polarized plug, one prong will be wider than the other.

Avoid placing cords where someone could accidentally pull them down or trip over them.

Always plug an appliance into the extension cord before plugging the extension cord into a wall receptacle. Make sure the appliance is turned off before plugging it in.

When disconnecting an extension cord, always pull from the plug, never the cord itself.

Cover unused outlets on the extension cord to prevent children from making contact with a live circuit.

Before buying any extension cord, check the product to ensure that a nationally recognized laboratory, such as CSA, UL, or ETL, has certified the product.

Use special, heavy-duty extension cords for high-wattage appliances such as air conditioners, portable electric heaters and freezers.

When placing furniture or an appliance directly up against a wall where a cord is plugged into a receptacle, use a low-profile type of plug. These plugs will let the appliance or furniture get closer to the wall, and there is less chance of the plug coming loose.

Outside the home, use extension cords designed for outdoor use.

Finally, make sure that you have not overloaded any circuit or extension cord. Remember that extension cords are not intended to permanently extend a home's wiring system. Before any work is done on your electrical system, always disconnect power from the circuit breaker panel or fuse box before attempting to replace a worn or damaged wall outlet, or call a licensed electrician to perform the work.

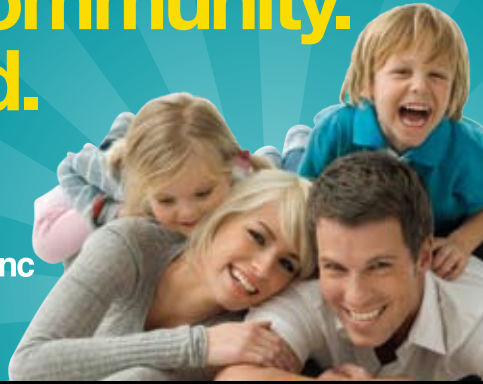
For more on consumer product safety, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

For information on product recalls, visit [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov).

For more on work place safety, contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

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## Reflections of Quakertown

The Borough is looking for submissions from avid amateur photographers for possible inclusion in a future issue of **Quakertown Quarterly** or the new **Quakertown Borough Website!**

If you have interesting or creative photos of life in the borough please send a JPEG file with all your contact information to [photos\\_of\\_Quakertown@yahoo.com](mailto:photos_of_Quakertown@yahoo.com).



If we decide to use your photo we will contact you for release of the images prior to publication.

**Images received without contact information will not be considered for publication.**

## Earned Income Tax

Act 32 of 2008 amended the Local Tax Enabling Act, which mandated countywide collection of Earned Income Taxes. Starting January 1, 2011, Quakertown Borough will change its Earned Income Tax Collector from Berkheimer Tax Administrator to Keystone Collection Group. All Earned Income Tax collected for 2011 should be remitted to Keystone Collection Group. Berkheimer Associates is responsible for the 2010 and previous years. Residents should file their 2010 Local Tax Return with Berkheimer Tax Administrator.

The Earned Income Tax is a 1.5% tax on all income earned, and distributed to Quakertown Community School District 1.0% and Quakertown Borough .5%.

### 2011 Earned Income Tax

For additional information, guidelines and documents, please refer to the Keystone Collection Group website at [keystonecollects.com](http://keystonecollects.com) or contact the corporate office at:

546 Wendel Road  
Irwin, PA 15642  
Phone: 724.978.0300

### 2010 and Previous Year's Earned Income Tax

For additional information, guidelines and documents, please refer to the Berkheimer Tax Administrator website [hab-inc.com](http://hab-inc.com) or contact the corporate office at:

50 North 7th St.  
Bangor PA 18013  
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WINTER 2011



# Quakertown

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