



Quakertown

QUARTERLY

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

Volume 2

Fall 2010 Newsletter



Autumn Alive!

Quakertown Alive! will be celebrating its 11th annual Autumn Alive! Festival as well as its 11th year as a Main Street Program. The 2010 Autumn Alive! Festival will be featuring a Pet Parade, a Grower's Market and a Talent Showcase with prizes.

There will be activities for every member of the family, including kids activities and rides, strolling performers including stilt walkers, magicians and balloon sculptures, as well as a Quakertown Borough Police K-9 demonstration, animal rescue groups, horse drawn wagon rides, a scare crow contest plus much, much more.

Local stores and restaurants will be adding to the excitement for festival-goers with special sales. There will be a food court with diverse choice of foods and drinks.

If you would like to participate in the Pet Parade or Talent Showcase, visit local businesses or email events@quakertownalive.com for application.

We are looking for new vendors, pet rescue groups and volunteers to assist with the event. For further information on Autumn Alive please call our office at 215-536-2273.

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Friday and Saturday 9-9 • Sunday 10-5

**Quakertown Farmers Market • Dept. #456
Quakertown, PA • 215-536-9227**

Borough Hours and Phone Numbers

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

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.

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

Pavilions in Memorial Park are available for rent on a first come, first served basis. The fee is \$50.00 per pavilion for resident, \$75.00 for non-resident.

Information from the Public Works Department

Leaf Pick-up

Leaf season is upon us and the Public Works Department will be diligently picking up leaves. In order to make this process as efficient as possible, please follow the guidelines listed below:

- Leaves should be raked to the curb
- Leaves cannot be further than 5 feet from the edge of the curb into your property. If they are further than 5 feet they WILL NOT be picked up.
- No branches
- No vines
- No bushes

There is no set schedule for leaf pick up, so if you have large piles that need to be picked up, please call Borough Hall at 215-536-5001 to schedule pick up. Crews will be out daily throughout the entire Borough during leaf season.

Branch Drop Off

It is fall clean up time. We will have our final branch drop off for the season at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on October 30, 2010. Borough residents can bring brush to the Erie Road entrance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 23rd: Autumn Alive, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Downtown Quakertown

December 3rd: Christmas Tree lighting, 6:00 pm
Downtown Quakertown

October 24th: Halloween Parade, 2:00 pm
Rain date: October 31st

October 30th: Brush drop off, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Sewer Treatment Plant

November 7th: Daylight Savings End

November 25th: Thanksgiving Holiday - Borough Hall closed
No Trash pick up

November 26th: Thanksgiving Holiday - Borough Hall closed
Thursday & Friday trash pick up

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



SNOW, SNOW, SNOW!!!!

Snow will be falling soon. It is the responsibility of all homeowners and business owners to know the Ordinance regarding snow removal. Please read the ordinance and if there are any questions feel free to contact the Zoning Office - 215-536-5001 x 132.

ARTICLE A. Snow and Ice removal. (§401--§409)

§ 401 Definitions.

§ 402 Removal of Snow and Ice in Residential Districts. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2032]

Every person in charge or control of any building or lot of land in the Borough fronting or abutting on a paved sidewalk in the residential district, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee or otherwise, shall remove and clear away, or cause to be removed and cleared away, snow and ice from a path of at least 24 inches in width from so much of that sidewalk as is in front of or abuts on that building or lot of land.

§ 403 Removal of Snow and Ice in Business Districts. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2033]

Every person in charge or control of any building or lot of land in the Borough fronting or abutting on a paved sidewalk in any business district, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee or otherwise, shall remove and clear away, or cause to be removed and cleared away, snow and ice to form a path at least four feet wide on the sidewalk fronting or abutting on that building or lot of land.

§ 404 Time Limit for Removal of Snow and Ice. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2034]

Snow and ice shall be removed from the sidewalks in all districts within 36 hours after the cessation of any fall or formation of snow, sleet or freezing rain.

§ 405 Postponement of Removal Under Certain Conditions. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2035]

In the event that snow and ice on a sidewalk has become so hard that it cannot be removed without likelihood of damage to the sidewalk, the person charged with its removal shall, within the time mentioned in § 404, cause enough sand or other abrasive to be put on the sidewalk to make travel on the sidewalk reasonably safe; and shall then, as soon afterward as weather permits, cause removal of the snow and ice in accordance with the terms of this Part.

§ 406 Deposit of Snow and Ice Restricted. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2036]

No person whose building or lot of land is located in a residential district shall deposit or cause to be deposited any snow and ice on any roadway or vehicular-traveled portions of the street; however, in business districts only, snow and ice may be wind-rowed on public roadways incident to the cleaning of sidewalks. Provided further, that in no district shall driveway entrances or driveways be cleared of snow or ice by depositing the snow or ice in the roadway or the vehicular-traveled portions of the street.

§ 407 Authority for Borough to Do Work at Expense of Person Responsible. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2037]

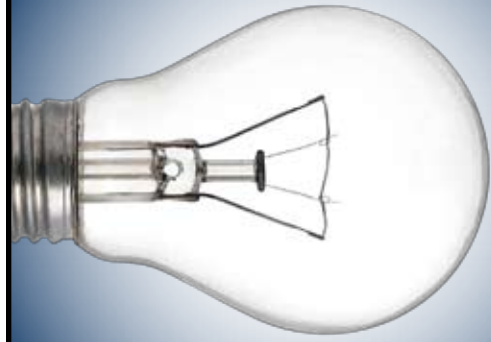
1. In the event of the failure of any person to clear away or treat with abrasives and subsequently clear away any snow and ice from any sidewalk as provided in the preceding Sections of this Part, or cause this to be done, the Manager shall, as soon as practicable after that failure, cause that work to be done.
2. The Manager shall ascertain and keep a record of the cost of all work he causes to be done in accordance with this Section on account of each act or omission of each person; and he shall identify those persons with particularity.
3. Each person, whose act or omission makes it necessary that the Manager cause work to be done in accordance with this Section shall be liable to the Borough for the cost of that work plus a penalty of 10% of that cost. It shall be the duty of the Manager or other appropriate official to sue for these costs and penalties, and it shall be the duty of the Solicitor to assist in the bringing of these suits.

§ 408 Penalties [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2038; as amended by Ord. 1004, 7/6/1994]

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Part shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$600 and costs and, in default of payment thereof, shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 30 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 409 Extension of Time Limit in Case of State of Emergency. [Ord. 856, 2/7/1979, § 12-2039]

If, because of severe weather conditions, a state of emergency is declared by the Manager, or in any other manner authorized by law, then the portion of § 404 relating to time limit for removing snow and ice shall be construed to mean 36 hours after the termination of that emergency.



Understanding Electric Demand

What you need to know to make cost-saving energy-use decisions

At the Borough of Quakertown we're committed to bringing you consistent and reliable energy. Part of that commitment involves providing you with information and expertise to help you use electricity more efficiently. After all, the more you know about using electricity, the more you can save on energy-related costs. Of course, using electricity wisely and economically is really up to you. Understanding demand- not only what it is but why it exists- is a good place to start

Defining Our Terms

KW-Rate of using electricity (Demand). Example: Ten 100-watt lamps consume electricity at the rate of 1,000 watts, or 1 kilowatt, or 1 kilowatt-hour per hour.

KWh-Electrical energy actually used (Energy). Example: Ten 100-watt lamps, when on for one hour, consume 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh)

What Is This Thing Called Demand?

The price we pay for anything we buy consists of the cost of the product plus profit, plus the cost of making the product available for sale, or overhead. In seeking to understand demand, we might equate it to this type of overhead expense. This is in contrast to charges customers pay for the electricity itself, or the "cost of product" largely made up of the costs incurred in the actual generation of energy.

Both consumption and demand charges are part of every electricity consumer's bill. Residential customers pay one rate of charges for electric service, covering both consumption of electricity and demand. This simple combined charge is possible because there is relatively little variation in electricity use from home to home.

This is not the case among commercial and industrial energy users, whose electricity use- both consumption and demand- vary greatly. Some need larger amounts of electricity once in a while- others, almost constantly. Complicating this is the fact that electricity cannot be stored. It must be generated and supplied to each customer as it is called for- instantly, day or night, in extremely variable quantities. Meeting these customers' needs requires keeping a vast array of expensive equipment- transformers, wires, substations and even generating stations- on constant standby. The capacity of this equipment must be large enough to meet peak consumption periods, i.e., when the need for electricity is highest.

Utilities and public service commissions around the country have determined that the most equitable way to cover the cost of this equipment is to have those customers who create this demand and the need for power during these peaks pay for its availability. For this reason, utilities spread the costs of this extra equipment among all commercial and industrial customers as a separate charge for demand.

Defining a Demand Customer

The Borough of Quakertown installs all commercial and industrial customers with a demand meter. The demand charge will be the highest average kW measured in a 15-minute interval during the billing period, but not less than 3kW.

Customers who do not create peaks but maintain a relatively level demand are known to have a high "load factor." Utility pricing policies are designed to pass savings on to these customers.

Comparing Demand and Consumption

On an industrial customer's energy service bill, charges for consumption and demand are separate; whereas commercial customers are combined into one charge.

This exaggerated example illustrates how it works. Suppose you have a commercial building with lighting, cooling, machinery and miscellaneous electric equipment. Its fully installed load totals 15 kW. You are not using the building and have no employees. On the first day of each month, you come into the building and turn on all the electrical equipment and leave it on for 15 minutes. Then you shut everything off again and lock up the building until the following month. What would your bill look like? It would show very little consumption, for example 4 kWh and a demand consumption of 15 kW.

Understanding Demand Metering

Much like your car odometer records the accumulated mileage, electric meters record consumption (kWh). Electric demand meters function like your speedometer- with an important difference.

A demand meter's needle advances as electricity consumption increases, just as your speed increases in a car. When you stop the car, the needle moves back to zero regardless of the highest miles per hour reached on the trip.

Unlike a speedometer needle, demand meters record the highest average kilowatts reached and maintained in a 15-minute interval within the billing period.

If your demand reaches 50kW and stays there for 15 minutes the meter needle remains at 50kW unless or until your demand exceeds that level. If your demand later reaches 55kW and stays there for 15-minutes, the needle will then stay at 55kW. The new index point is maintained, even when you are using electricity below 55kW, until the meter reader comes to record and resets the meter back to zero.

For example, suppose you have a 10kW motor in one part of the building and a 15kW motor in the other. If you operate both units simultaneously, the demand will record 25kW.

However, if you can use the motors alternately, operating the 10kW unit when the 15kW unit is off and vice versa. The maximum demand reading will only be 15kW.

Saving Energy with Demand Control

There are many ways to manage demand, ranging from manual controls to automatic units. Also making sure that the building is thermally sound will also allow your heating and cooling systems to be more cost efficient.

Customer Support and Information.

Please call 267-347-5009 or email us at utilitybilling@quakertownboro.com. We also have available worksheets to help you figure out your electric and demand bill using your electric rates. Please email the above address if you would like to obtain one.



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Code Enforcement's Process of Addressing violations

Most Code Enforcement cases are initiated by Quakertown residents who report suspected violations. Cases can also be initiated by a Code Enforcement Officer in the field, or by another County agency who directly observes a violation of the Code. No matter how a case is initiated, the same general progression is followed until the violation is corrected and the case can be closed.

Before a notice of a violation is issued on a complaint, the Code Enforcement Department performs an on-site inspection to verify there is a violation. If the inspection does not reveal a violation, the case is closed without further action. However, if a violation is discovered, all responsible parties are then notified and a reasonable period of time is provided for corrections. In addition to the on-site inspection, the investigation also involves research of the property boundaries, zoning designation, ownership, and other parties who may have either a financial interest in the property, or who are contributing violators.

If the notice of violation is not complied with, the code official shall institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate such violation, or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto. Any action taken by the authority having jurisdiction on such premises shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

If there are questions about what is required to achieve compliance with the Borough of Quakertown Codes you can call the Quakertown Borough Code Enforcement Office. Code Enforcement's goal is to preserve the quality and value of public and private property and maintain a high standard of living by eliminating conditions that threaten the life, health, safety, and general welfare of the public. The department recognizes that this goal is most effectively achieved through the education of, and cooperation with, the Quakertown Borough residents and business owners.

The Code Enforcement Department can be reached at
215-536-5001 x 132.

What You Can Do To Make Sure Your Utility Payment Is Posted Correctly to Your Account

The Borough accepts utility payments in many forms, such as through our lockbox, at TD Bank or QNB, or at Borough Hall. All payments made are posted to your account within one day unless we can't locate the account number. Unfortunately, many customers do not write their account number on their check or return the payment coupon. The Borough incurs the most expense related to the handling of these payments as they are typically the first line of contact for consumers who receive late payment notices. We have seen an increase in customer calls, researching of transactions that are not able to be posted, and reissuing bills because the account number was not included on the remittance check.

Mail the Payment

It is very important to utilize the payment coupon when making your payment, as the coupon is encoded for efficient and accurate posting of payments. For the most efficient and accurate processing, your check should always be payable to the Borough of Quakertown and mailed with the payment coupon directly to the bank lockbox address at:

Quakertown Payment Processing
P.O. Box 95000
Philadelphia, PA 19195-4365

Payments received at this address are processed the same day and applied to your utility account overnight through an interface with our financial software, as well as credited to the Borough's bank account. It is very important that payments are mailed to this address since it is a direct remittance lockbox with the Borough's bank.

Online Bill Pay Service

Some customers prefer to use their own bank's online payment services. When using this system through your bank, as above, please make sure your payment is payable to the Borough of Quakertown and sent to the address above. Since the payment coupon won't be included, please place your account number in the memo field of the remittance (your account number is located on your payment coupon). This will ensure proper payment processing to your utility account. If you are not sure of your account number, please contact customer service at 267-347-5009 and we will be happy to provide you with this information. In addition, please remember that when utilizing an on-line banking service through your bank they remit a check by mail to the lockbox, so please allow sufficient mailing time to be received by the Borough's bank to avoid any late charges.

In Person – Drop off Your Payment

Some customers prefer to drop off their payments at Borough Hall, TD Bank or QNB each month. We are happy to accept your payments at these locations. However, we strongly encourage you to use the lockbox payment option outlined in this article. If you prefer to deliver your payment to these locations, please still include your payment coupon to assist us in accurate and timely processing.

No Coupon?

If you do not have a payment coupon available, please be sure to write your account number on your check to assist us in proper posting of your payment to your account and expedite the process. If you are paying for more than one utility bill location, you may remit one check. However, it is very important you include a payment coupon for each property to assist in properly applying your payment.

Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

General Rules for Holiday Safety

Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children. Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.

Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**

Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes—particularly long, open sleeves—near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.

Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.

Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

Trees

Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection.

A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:

A fresh tree is green.

Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.

When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.

The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.

When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.

Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling. These wires are almost invisible.

"Snow"

Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels; follow directions carefully.

Candles

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.

Always use non-flammable holders.

Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.

Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

Trimming

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair" to avoid irritation to eyes and skin.

Choose tinsel or artificial icicles or plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

In homes with small children, take special care to:

Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.

Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.

Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food. A child could eat them!

Fires

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.

Keep a screen before the fireplace all the time a fire is burning.

Use care with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals which can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten. Keep away from children.

Paper

When making paper decorations, look for materials labeled non-combustible or flame-resistant.

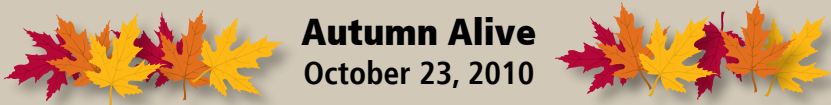
Never place trimming near open flames or electrical connections.

Remove all wrapping papers from tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.

Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.



QUAKERTOWN Alive! NEWS

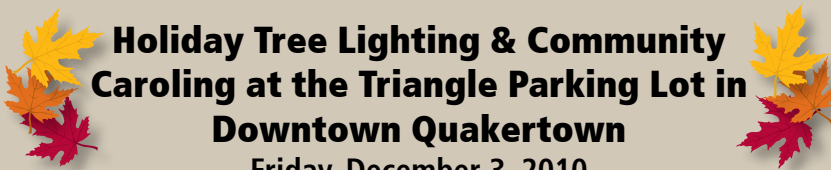


Autumn Alive October 23, 2010

Quakertown Alive! will be celebrating its 11th annual Autumn Alive! Festival as well as its 11th year as a Main Street Program. The 2010 Autumn Alive! Festival will be featuring a Pet Parade, a Grower's Market and a Talent Showcase with prizes.

There will be activities for every member of the family, including kids activities and rides, strolling performers including stilt walkers, magicians and balloon sculptures, as well as a Quakertown Borough Police K-9 demonstration, animal rescue groups, horse drawn wagon rides, a scare crow contest plus much, much more.

Local stores and restaurants will be adding to the excitement for festival-goers with special sales. There will be a food court with diverse choice of foods and drinks.



Holiday Tree Lighting & Community Caroling at the Triangle Parking Lot in Downtown Quakertown

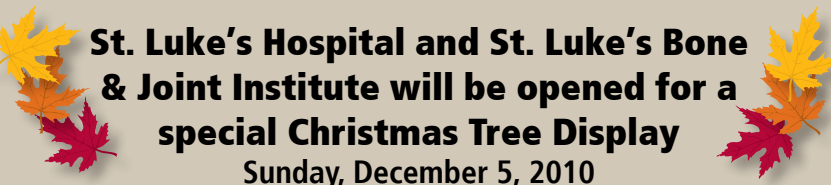
Friday, December 3, 2010

Festivities begin at 6pm

Featuring:
Strolling Olde Town Carolers
Santa Lights the Community Christmas Tree at 7pm
Candy Canes for the Children
Christmas Vendors

Enjoy refreshments at many of our downtown businesses and visit our downtown stores for holiday specials. For more information, contact Quakertown Alive! - 215-536-2273

quakertownalive.com
info@quakertownalive.com



St. Luke's Hospital and St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute will be opened for a special Christmas Tree Display

Sunday, December 5, 2010

Sponsored and Decorated by Many Special
Social Clubs of Quakertown.

FAT-FREE SEWERS

Prevent Fats, Oils, and Greases from
Damaging Your Home and the Environment



Helping to Prevent Sewer Overflows and Backups is Easy

Fats, oils, and greases aren't just bad for arteries and waistslines; they're bad for sewers, too. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage to home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where Does the Grease Come From?

Grease is a byproduct of cooking that comes from meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the street). Over time, it can build up and block an entire pipe.

The Results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or the house next door
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which leads to higher sewer bills for customers.
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the home or business owner.
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets.
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms.

YOU CAN HELP!

Help Prevent sewer overflows by:

- Never pouring grease down sink drains or into toilets
- Putting baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and emptying them into the trash.
- Scraping grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available)
- Speaking with your friends and neighbors about how to keep grease out of sewers.

What else should NOT go down the drain?

Paper Products:

Paper towels, disposable (and cloth) diapers and wipes, and feminine products can cause a great deal of problems in the private and public sewer lines. These products do not deteriorate quickly, as does bathroom tissue. They become lodged in pipes and dam up the line, causing sewer backups. These products should also be disposed of in the garbage can.

Chemicals:

Though they may not clog your sewer line, most chemicals can potentially cause damage to your sewer line, and upset the wastewater treatment process which could lead to environmental harm and higher treatment costs for customers. These chemicals include:

- Antifreeze
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Cleaners/solvents
- Fertilizers
- Paint/thinners
- Fuels
- Herbicides
- Hobby supplies
- Pool chemicals
- Used motor oil

Chemicals should always be disposed of properly. Check local requirements for trash and disposal options.

Fight the Frost this Winter: ENERGY STAR

Offers Tips to Keep Warm, Save Energy and Help the Environment

Improve your home's comfort and save energy and money while doing the right thing for the environment. By using energy efficiently in your home, you can make a difference by preventing air pollution from power plants. Follow these simple recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:



1. Know the Facts – The average family spends \$1,400 a year on energy bills, with nearly half of that spent on heating and cooling. Energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment, sized and installed correctly, with properly sealed ducts, can save homeowners as much as 20 percent on their annual energy costs.

2. Keep it Clean – A dirty air filter can increase your energy costs and lead to early equipment failure. Clean or change the air filter in your heating and cooling system monthly. Some filters only need to be changed every 3 months. Also, have your equipment checked seasonally to make sure it's operating efficiently and safely – check-ups can identify problems early. Dirt and neglect are the #1 causes of system failure.

3. Bundle Up Your Home – Hidden gaps and cracks in a home can add up to as much airflow as an open window. The more heat that escapes, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Home Sealing can improve your home "envelope" – the outer walls, ceiling, windows and floors -- and can save up to 10 percent in energy costs. Start by sealing air leaks and adding insulation—pay special attention to your attic and basement, where the biggest gaps and cracks are often found. If replacing windows, choose ENERGY STAR qualified ones.

4. Tighten Your Ducts – If you have a forced air furnace or heat pump, then a duct system is responsible for circulating warm air throughout your home. Leaky ducts can reduce your system's overall efficiency by 20 percent. Sealing your ducts can save up to \$140 annually on energy bills and help you consistently heat every room.

5. Don't Oversize – If you're replacing old equipment, make sure your new equipment is properly sized for your home -- bigger isn't always better. An oversized system will cost more to buy and operate and will

cycle on and off too frequently, reducing your comfort and leading to early system failures and repair costs. Correct size and proper airflow will ensure that your equipment works efficiently, saves you money, and helps protect our environment.

6. Put Your Home to the Test – Doing a home improvement project this fall or winter? ENERGY STAR has online tools to evaluate your home's energy performance and offer solutions to increase comfort and energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement. Have your utility bills handy for savings calculations.

7. Consult a Professional – Find an experienced, licensed contractor before embarking on any heating and cooling overhaul. Visit <http://www.natex.org/> to find a contractor whose technicians are certified by NATE (North American Technician Excellence), the leading industry-supported testing and certification program. Your contractor should properly size your equipment, test airflow, and perform a quality installation.

8. Cash in on Special Offers – Concerned about the cost of new heating equipment? Check with your local utility or visit the rebate finder at www.energystar.gov/rebatefinder to see if there are any special deals on high efficiency heating equipment. Manufacturer rebates are usually offered in fall and early spring. Ask for ENERGY STAR qualified equipment – it might cost more up front, but will offer you greater savings and comfort for years to come.

9. Shop Smart – If your heating equipment has been poorly maintained and is 15 years or older, it's probably time for a more efficient replacement. Ask for an ENERGY STAR when buying the following equipment:

Furnaces – One in four furnaces in U.S. homes is more than 20 years old. Old furnaces cost more to operate per year than new, ENERGY STAR qualified models that are 15 percent more efficient than standard models.

Heat Pumps – Today's electric and geothermal heat pumps are much more efficient than those installed just 10 years ago. When installed in a home with a well-sealed home envelope, heat pumps will provide great value and comfort for your energy dollar. An ENERGY STAR qualified geothermal heat pump is 30 percent more efficient than comparable new equipment and can save you as much as \$200 annually. A qualified electric heat pump is 20 percent more efficient and can save you about \$130 annually.

Boilers – An ENERGY STAR qualified boiler uses features like electric ignition and new combustion technologies that extract more heat from the same amount of fuel, to be 7 percent more energy-efficient.

Programmable Thermostats – Regulate your home's temperature with four programmable settings and you can save about \$100 annually on your energy bills.

<http://www.energystar.gov>



Quakertown K-9

Officer Matthew Molchan has been a member of the Quakertown Borough Police Department since 1997 and was assigned to the K9 Unit in June 2010. Officer Molchan was partnered with Jynx. Jynx is a two year old German Shepherd from the Czech Republic. Jynx is a trained dual purpose canine and has training in both explosive detection and patrol/tracking. Officer Molchan and Jynx are part of the Bucks County Explosive Detection Canine Task Force working with other explosive detection canine units in the county.

Some of Officer Molchan's K9 training included attending a canine handler's course at Tarheel Canine in Sanford North Carolina. There he trained with Jynx for four weeks and was taught basic obedience training, controlled aggression, trail and explosive detection. Officer Molchan and Jynx also attend monthly training sessions in patrol and explosive scent detection.

The Quakertown Borough K9 unit is funded through generous donations from the community. If you would like to donate to the K9 unit you can mail donations to the Quakertown Police Department or stop in at the front office. The K9 unit is also available for community presentations. Please contact Officer Matthew Molchan or Officer Bryan Lockwood for more information. Both can be reached at 215-536-5002 or by emailing them at mmolchan@quakertownboro.com or blockwood@quakertownboro.com.



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Christmas Light Safety

Christmas lights are beautiful and much safer than candles, but all that electricity can cause problems if not used properly. Christmas lights can get hot enough to burn or ignite other decorations. The cords can fray, leading to a short. Decorating with lights often requires the use of a ladder, and improper use could lead to an injury. Practice ladder safety when you are putting up Christmas lights.

When you put up Christmas lights this season - or holiday lights during any season - be sure to follow these Christmas light safety tips.

- Choose Christmas lights that have been tested and deemed safe by a reputable testing laboratory, the best are UL or ETL. Christmas lights listed as safe by these laboratories will note that on the packaging.
- Try to use the cooler-burning "mini" Christmas lights as opposed to the traditional larger bulbs. The older style burns much hotter.
- Only use Christmas lights that have fuses in the plugs.
- Inspect each set of Christmas lights - old or new - for damage. Return or throw out any set with cracked or broken sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Replace burned out bulbs promptly with bulbs of the same wattage.
- Never hang Christmas lights on a metal tree. The tree can become charged with electricity and shock someone. The tree can also short out the Christmas lights and cause a fire.
- Want Christmas lights outdoors? Use outdoor Christmas lights. The packaging will note whether the lights can be used indoors, outdoors, or both.
- All outdoor electrical decorations should be plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). You can buy portable units for outdoor use, or you can have them permanently installed by an electrician.
- Use extension cords properly. Outdoor cords can be used inside or outside. Do not overload extension cords - they can get hot enough to burn. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord
- Stay away from powerlines or feeder lines (these go from the pole to the house).
- Secure outside Christmas lights with insulated holders (never use tacks or nails) or run strings of lights through hooks.
- When you leave or go to bed at night, turn off your Christmas lights.
- Never pull on a string of Christmas lights, it stresses the cords and can lead to fraying. Store Christmas lights loosely wrapped for the same reason.
- Keep "bubbling" lights away from children. These lights with their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and attempt to drink liquid, which contains a hazardous chemical.

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What's new about the flu vaccine for the 2010-11 flu season?

Who should get a flu vaccine this season?

All people 6 months and older are now recommended to receive annual influenza vaccination. This is a new and expanded recommendation for this season. In February, 2010, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted in favor of "universal" influenza vaccination in the United States to protect as many people as possible against the flu.

Will I have to get two flu vaccines again this season?

No. Only one flu vaccine is being made this year and most people will only need to get vaccinated once. There is one exception to this: CDC recommends that children aged 6 months through 8 years of age who have never received a seasonal flu vaccine get two doses of vaccine spaced at least 4 weeks apart.

- Two doses given at least 4 weeks apart are recommended for children aged 6 months through 8 years of age who are getting a flu vaccine for the first time. Children who only got 1 dose in their first year of vaccination should get 2 doses the following year.
- All children 6 months up through 8 years of age getting a flu vaccine for the first time need two doses, at least 4 weeks apart, the first year they are vaccinated in order to develop immune protection. This includes children who received one or two doses of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine, but who have never received a seasonal flu vaccine.

What viruses will this season's vaccine protect against?

The flu vaccine is updated every year to combat the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the upcoming season. The 2010-2011 flu vaccine is being made in the same way as seasonal vaccines have been made for decades. It will protect against the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season, and two other influenza viruses (an H3N2 virus and an influenza B virus). About 2

weeks after vaccination, antibodies that provide protection against influenza virus infection develop in the body.

Even people that got vaccinated with the 2009 H1N1 vaccine or last year's seasonal vaccine need to be vaccinated with the flu seasonal vaccine this year. This season's vaccine provides protection against other influenza strains that were not in either the seasonal or the 2009 H1N1 vaccine last season and besides, immunity from a vaccine gotten last year may decline over time.

Is there a new type of vaccine available for seniors who are 65 years or older?

Yes. Persons 65 years or older and their providers can choose any of the currently licensed inactivated vaccines, including Fluzone High-Dose, a new vaccine designed specifically for people 65 years and older. For more information, see Questions & Answers Fluzone High-Dose Seasonal Influenza Vaccine.

Are there new groups of people who are considered at higher risk of serious flu complications this season?

Yes. Morbid obesity is a newly recognized medical risk factor for influenza complications based on information from last flu season. Morbid obesity is defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) >40. Also, last flu season, American Indians and Alaskan Natives were found to be at greater risk of complications from the flu.

Where can I get the flu vaccine?

Flu vaccines have begun shipping from manufacturers and should be available in increasing quantities. Manufacturers project that there will be ample supplies of vaccine and that most vaccine will be distributed by November 2010. You can get the flu vaccine from your health care provider, as well as public clinics. For a list of public locations, please visit: [Flu Vaccine Finder](#).

For additional information please contact 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit [www.flu.gov](#)





The Quakertown Borough Police Department is in the process of becoming accredited through the Pennsylvania Police Chief's Association. When you think of accreditation you may think of colleges or the medical field where the standards and objectives are to improve overall performance.

Likewise police departments have adapted this same philosophy. The goal is to professionalize law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth that apply uniform standards. Standards are operating procedures that officers and department adhere to. These include policies such as vehicle pursuits or use of force.

The accreditation process is time vested and complex. Departments must complete three phases which include application process, self assessment, and formal assessment. Trained assessors will audit each police department to ensure strict compliance with all the standards. Once the department completes the accreditation process it is valid for three years.

Why are police departments obtaining accreditation? Having an accredited police department provides the community with professional and efficient police officers. It reduces the risk of liability and provides a check and balance system. Some departments have seen a reduction with insurance savings.

Currently the Quakertown Borough Police Department is nearing the final phase of accreditation. There are only three police departments in Bucks County that have been successfully accredited. Quakertown Police will be one of the first departments in Upper Bucks to reach this goal.

Ptln. Robert Lee
Quakertown Police Department

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The Arsenic in the Water Call on August 11th?

As all customers of Quakertown's water system know, the level of arsenic is slightly over the allowable limit. While this poses no immediate health risk, the rules of the Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Borough to notify our customers of the situation. In the past the Borough sent out a letter to explain the problem and inform every one of the remediation plan.

Since the time the previous letter was sent, the Borough has contracted with a company to do direct phone messaging. The arsenic problem is no worse than before, but because the phone system is available to us, it only made sense to utilize it. Some customers misinterpreted this to mean there was a risk to their health. This is not the case; the message stated to consult the Borough web site where the notice was posted. The notice is much the same as those mailed in the past.

There is no emergency and you do not need to boil your water or find an alternative source. In the future it may be necessary to send out another notification and if so, it will be done in this manner again. As far as the arsenic situation, it is the same as before and not an emergency. The only difference was the method used to notify you.

The automated direct telephone dialing system was used to announce the arsenic violation, but will be used for ANY type of public service announcement, emergency, community notifications, etc. This system will be used more often in the future as needed. It is another source of Borough communication aimed to keep our residents aware of events and happenings.



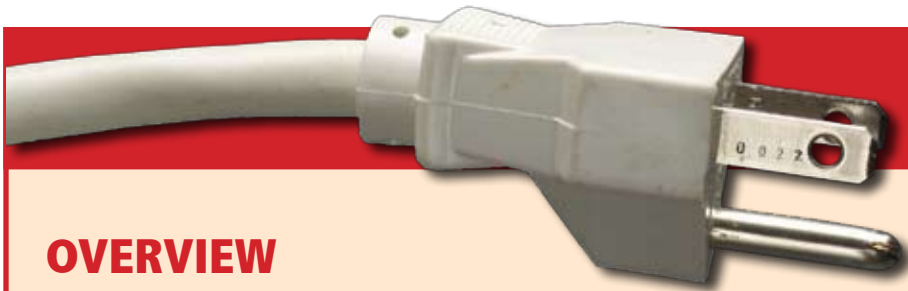
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Electrical Safety

OVERVIEW

Electricity is a major cause of home fires. While use of electric power has increased, electrical systems, particularly in homes built over 20 years ago, have not kept up with the demand. Aged wiring, overloaded circuits, worn outlets are among the electrical hazards that can start fires and cause electrical shock.

Increasing electrical safety awareness and the use of electrical safety technology are key factors in reducing deaths, injuries and economic losses due to electrical hazards. Most shocks and fires from electrical systems can be prevented. Have your electrical system inspected by a licensed electrician. Fix dangerous defects; install smoke detectors, arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and check lighting and home appliances for wear and tear.

Aging Home Electrical Systems

Electrical distribution systems are the third leading cause of home structure fires. These fires caused the most property damage, are the second leading cause of death, and the third leading cause of home fire injuries, according to statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). It is recommended that homeowners have their homes electrically inspected, particularly if they fall into one of the following categories:

- Owner of a home 40 or more years old;
- Owner of a home 10 or more years old that has had major renovation, addition or major new appliance; or New owner of a previously owned home.

The following are some of the signs consumers can look for to address home wiring electrical hazards:

- Power outages—circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that need replacement;
- Dim and flickering lights;
- Arcs and sparks—flashes of light or showers of sparks in your electrical system;
- Sizzles and buzzes—unusual sounds from your electrical system;
- Overheating — overheated wires can give off an odor of hot insulation; switch plates or receptacle covers are hot to the touch, or discolored from heat buildup;
- Electrical shocks — any shock, even a mild tingle, may be warning of an electrical danger;
- Overrated panel — electrical panels with fuses or circuit breakers rated at higher currents than the capacity of their branch circuits;
- Damaged wire insulation — cut, broken or cracked insulation.

Aluminum Wiring Dangers

Homeowners with aluminum wiring in their homes should monitor it closely. Aluminum wire oxidizes more rapidly than copper wire and is a greater potential fire hazard because oxidation increases resistance and heat buildup along the circuit. Since aluminum wire expands and contracts at a greater rate than copper wire, there is also a greater likelihood that gaps could develop at connections, potentially leading to hazardous arcs and glowing connections. Even in younger homes, new homeowners should take an active role in understanding the condition of the current electrical system, its capacity, limitations, and potential hazards. Homeowners should contact a licensed electrician to inspect the home's circuitry to ensure the home's circuits are not overloaded and the home's electrical service can adequately supply the demand. Homeowners can develop a detailed map to show which circuits serve which outlets and fixtures, and how much power is being demanded of each.

Electrical inspections can catch problems hidden behind the walls and correct them before they turn tragic. In many cases, technologies such as ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and newer arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) can be installed to help prevent a fire and accidental electrocution.

The bottom line is: Inspect and Protect - call a qualified, licensed electrician to schedule an electrical inspection.

AFCI Installations

Prevailing low interest rates encourage homeowners to make renovations but also present a prime opportunity for an investment to improve their home's electrical safety. Consumers should consider installing arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to protect all of the circuits throughout the home during renovations.

AFCIs are electrical safety devices designed to prevent fires caused by dangerous electrical arcs. Arc faults are one of the major causes of the 73,500 residential electrical fires that occur each year. Use of new AFCI technology could prevent between 50 to 75 percent of these fires, saving hundreds of lives, reducing thousands of injuries and nearly \$1 billion in property damage annually.

Arc faults do not necessarily create a sustained short circuit that causes a traditional circuit breaker to trip or a fuse to blow, but can result in hot spots in wiring that can lead to a fire. AFCIs recognize the unique signature of harmful arcs—and shut off the circuit to prevent a fire hazard. Arcs can occur along the circuit in residential electrical systems and at outlets and switches, behind walls. Hidden electrical fires can spread rapidly, delaying detection by smoke alarms, reducing the chances of survival. Conditions that trigger arc faults include:

- Damaged wires from nails driven into walls;
- Cracked insulation on wires due to aging or stress;
- Frayed wires at stress points;
- Loose or improper connections, faulty electrical equipment; and
- Overheated electrical wires.

AFCIs should be installed on all general purpose circuits throughout the home, particularly in older homes where arcing hazards could have developed over several years.

Seasonal Safety Reminders

The Borough of Quakertown Electric Department has issued a safety checklist to remind everyone to keep electrical safety in mind during the change of seasons:

- Safely store warm weather tools like lawn mowers and trimmers. Check cold weather tools, such as leaf and snow blowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools or parts right away.
- Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be in use again until spring.
- Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure electrical equipment that has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair dealer.
- Keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.
- Make sure electric blankets are in good repair, certified by an independent testing lab such as UL, CSA or ETL. Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut.
- Do not tuck your electric blanket into mattresses or under children, and don't put anything on top of the blanket while in use, such as comforters or bedspreads.
- Never allow pets to sleep on an electric blanket.

Car Seat Safety

Officer Mario Cabrera has been employed with Quakertown Borough Police Department since 2003. In June 2006 he completed The National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program. The initial certification required forty hours of training. Re-certification is completed every two years which consists of continuing child car seat education, practical exam, and participating in a community related event. Since receiving his Technician Certification, he has been educating and installing child car seats for the community.



**Officer
Mario Cabrera**

The Quakertown Borough Police Department provides this complimentary service to those interested in learning proper installation of car seats. Please phone 215-536-5002 at extension 5812 for appointment or general questions regarding child car seats.

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.



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.



Summer Concert Series

We would like to get feedback from our residents as to the type of music they would like to see offered at our free Summer Concert in the Park series.

The **Summer Concert in the Park Series** consists of six to eight concerts that are offered free to all visitors. The Borough is trying to provide new and different types of music, and would appreciate your views.

- Oldies Rock (1950s) - Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley
- Classic Rock (1960s & 1970s) - Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Who, Led Zeppelin, CCR
- Punk Rock & Pop Rock (1980s) – Madonna, Culture Club, Depeche Mode
- Hair Bands (1980s) – Bon Jovi, Metallica, Van Halen
- Alternative/Progressive Rock (1990s) – Nirvana, Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers
- Country
- Country Rock – Allman Brothers, Eagles, Lynyrd Skynyrd
- Jazz - Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong
- Big Band - Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey
- Blues - Robert Johnson, Bessie Smith
- Big Band – Quakertown Band
- OTHER:

Please choose three from the above categories. These surveys will be used to aid us in selecting bands to book for the the 2011 season. Please drop off or mail this survey to:
Quakertown Borough, 35 N. Third Street, Quakertown, PA 18951 ATTN: Concerts





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