

Online Utility Bill Payment Now Available!



The Borough of Quakertown now offers a website for residents to pay their utility bill online. The website, **www.xpressbillpay.com**, allows residents to create a unique, secure log-in to display their utility account information and accept online payments. You now have the convenience of paying your bill online by credit card or automatic bank drafts, saving you time, gas and stamps!

E-billing is also available for those who prefer receiving their bill electronically instead of through the traditional mail. Those who sign up for the E-services will receive e-mail alerts and communication regarding Borough services in addition to their utility bill.

This convenience is something our residents have often requested, and now with the new utility billing software we are finally able to offer this service. Take the hassle and worry out of paying your utility bill by utilizing the website. Best of all - this service is free!

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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
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 Hall will be closed November 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving and December 23 & 26 for Christmas.

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's Chamber is handicap accessible. If you want to confirm a meeting date, please check our website at www.quakertown-pa. gov.

There will be no work session meeting in December.

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

NOTICE CONCERNING YOUR WATER METER



If you have a black plastic meter inside your home, it needs to be replaced. Occasionally we have had these meters break, causing a leak which could damage your home. There are three different brands: Rockwell, Trident, and Badger. The meter will look similar to picture shown to the left. If you have one of these meters in your home, please call the Water Department at 215-536-5855 between the hours of 7:00 am and 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday, to make an appointment to change out your meter. There is no charge for this service.

FROM THE TRENCHES

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 farther than 5 feet from the edge of the curb onto your property. If they are farther than 5 feet they WILL NOT be picked up
- No branches
- No vines
- No bushes

There is a set schedule for leaf pick up and we will do our best to adhere to the schedule. No date has been set to start leaf pick up, but check our website at www.quakertown-pa.gov or call Borough Hall at 215-536-5001 for updates. The schedule is as follows:

> Monday — from Oak Knoll to west side of Main Street Tuesday — east side of Main Street to Ninth Street Wednesday — Ninth Street to Front Street Thursday — Front Street to N. Ambler Street Friday — N. Ambler Street to the Borough line

HYDRANT FLUSHING

If the weather cooperates, the Water Department will be flushing hydrants during normal daylight working hours. Flushing will begin in mid to late September and conclude when flushing is complete or the weather dictates otherwise. During this time you may experience discolored water. Running the water for a short time will clear this from your line. If you notice us in the area, please verify that the water is running clear by checking the water at a tap prior to doing any laundry. You may also experience a lower than normal pressure, but this will only be temporary.

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Hidden Cleanouts – A Horror Story

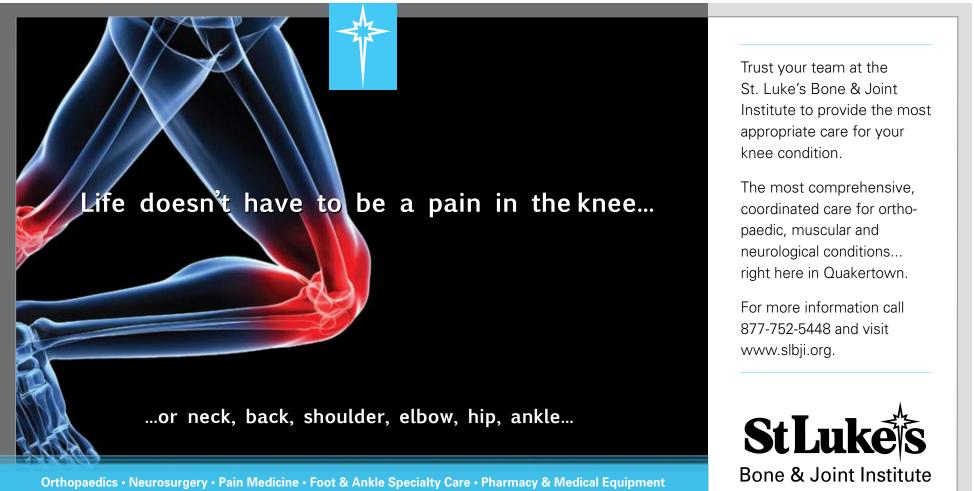
Long ago and far away, Sam & Sally bought a new home in suburbia. They lived happily there; raised a few kids, landscaped their yard. They lived an idyllic life, until one day, disaster struck! The downstairs toilet started to overflow. They called a plumber. He snaked the toilet and said the problem was in the pipe outside the house. They went outside and looked for the cleanouts. The plumber said, "There should be a cleanout very close to the house and another one close to the curb." With flashlight in hand, they looked and looked. Under the bushes, between the shrubs, on the lawn, they searched. "Where are the cleanouts?" they cried. Meanwhile, the toilet continued to backup, and the carpet was getting yucky.

"Call the borough manager! Maybe he knows." The borough manager called the wastewater treatment facility superintendent who called the collection system foreman. The foreman called in his crew. Meanwhile, the toilet continued to back up! YUCK!!! And the plumber's time clock was ticking dollars – DOUBLE YUCK!!!

With drawings in hand, the foreman said "The line should be about here. The drawing shows the pipe is PVC so we can't use a metal detector to locate it. Get the shovels and let's start digging!" The cleanouts were finally located and the pipe was unclogged. The end result was a ruined carpet, a stinky basement, a front yard with lots of holes, and a huge bill from the plumber.

The moral of the story is: DON'T HIDE OR BURY YOUR CLEA-NOUTS! For this story, I decided to drive around my neighborhood and take a few pictures of cleanouts. I had a hard time finding cleanouts. So, if your cleanout is not easily visible, find it and mark it. Or you could have this horror story happen to you.

PS – You should also know the locations of your water shutoff valves, both inside and outside your home.



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DATES OF INTEREST

October 8, 2011	Playing it Safe St. Luke's Bone & Joint Institute 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
October 22, 2011	Autumn Alive! Downtown Quakertown 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
October 22, 2011	Grapes 'N Hops Brew Fest Quakertown Historic Train Station 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
October 23, 2011	Halloween Parade 2:00 pm Rain Date October 30, 2011
October 29, 2011	Brush drop off Erie Road entrance to Sewer plant 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
October 31, 2011	Trick or Treat 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
November 6, 2011	Daylight Savings Ends
November 8, 2011	Election Day
November 24 & 25, 2011	Thanksgiving Holiday Borough Hall Closed Thursday and Friday trash routes picked up on Friday
December 2, 2011	Tree Lighting Festival Downtown Quakertown 7:00 pm
December 4, 2011	Christmas House Tour 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
December 23 & 26, 2011	Christmas Holiday Borough Hall Closed No disruption of trash pickup
January 2, 2012	New Year's Holiday Borough Hall Closed No disruption of trash pickup
January 2, 2012	IWS (Chesmont) begins Holiday tree pickup, no plastic bags

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SOLAR ENERGY



Solar energy is among the cleanest forms of renewable energy on the planet. This important resource is being used across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

What Is Solar Power?

Virtually all of the earth's energy resources, including both fossil fuels and renewables, originate from the sun. Today, solar energy not only takes the form of the more basic passive solar design, but is also applied through highly advanced, cost-effective photovoltaic cells and other solar energy technologies. Solar energy can be divided into three major categories - passive solar, solar-thermal and photovoltaic. Let's learn a little about each type of solar power.

Passive Solar

Passive solar design takes advantage of a building's structure to capture the sun's heat, either storing or distributing it, reducing the need for conventional heating, cooling and/or lighting. Examples of passive solar design include large, south-facing windows, dark colored tile floors, stone fireplaces, brick interior walls, "sunspaces" (or greenhouses) and super-insulation. Passive solar buildings are often equipped with features, such as overhangs and ventilation systems, which keep them cool in

the summer months and warm in the winter months. Commercial buildings present a different type of challenge than residential ones because of the heavy lighting and equipment use. The most crucial aspect of passive solar design for commercial buildings is the building orientation relative to the solar path. Other aspects of passive solar design, such as shade trees and indoor atriums, coupled with energy efficiency measures, can help increase the overall efficiency of a commercial building.

Solar-Thermal

Power plants often use fossil fuels as a heat source to boil water. The steam from the boiling water then rotates a large turbine, activating a generator that produces electricity. Solar-thermal concentrating systems use sunlight as the heat source, eliminating the need for fossil fuels. There are three types of solar-thermal concentrating systems & parabolic troughs, parabolic dishes and central receivers. Parabolic troughs, primarily used for industrial purposes, are curved reflectors that focus sunlight into a line receiver in which fluid is heated. Parabolic dishes, also used in industrial applications, are bowl-shaped reflectors that focus sunlight into a small receiver through which passes a heat-transfer fluid. Central receivers, which have traditionally dominated the U.S. Department of Energy's solar thermal program, are sun-tracking mirrors that focus sunlight onto a large receiver.

Photovoltaic Cells

Photovoltaic (PV) cells, or solar cells, convert sunlight directly into electricity. As the sun strikes a PV cell, the semi-conducting materials within the cell absorb the sunlight, producing electricity. Solar cells are often used as simple systems that power small calculators and wristwatches. More complicated systems provide electricity for pumping water, powering communications equipment, lighting homes, and running appliances. A series of solar cells form a PV array or "solar panel." Between 10 and 50 solar panels are needed to power an average household. PV panels are installed on buildings in places of maximum sun and minimal shade in order to take full advantage of the sun's power. There is very little maintenance required to sustain solar equipment. So long as panels are kept clean, they can last approximately 20 to 30 years.

Solar power can be used in a grid-tied system or in a distributed system. A solar grid-tied system links a series of solar panels through a power inverter to the utility's electric grid. The solar panels generate a direct current (DC) by drawing on

...continued on page 10



Community

CAROL ANN HILL

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With autumn fast approaching, more and more people in the Quakertown area will enjoy the changing of the leaves and the cooler temperatures. Unfortunately, some autumn–related weather activities such as hiking and camping, turning the furnace back on, cleaning the chimney, and trick-or-treating do present their share of hazards. To help ensure everyone in the community enjoys a safe autumn, the Borough of Quakertown offers the following tips and suggests you post them where they are likely to be seen by your family members and co-workers.

CHIMNEY MAINTENANCE IS VITAL TO YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.
- When possible, burn seasoned woods (dryness of the wood is more important than hard wood versus soft wood).
- Smaller, hotter fires will burn more completely and produce less smoke than larger fires.
- Do not burn cardboard boxes or trash, as they can spark a chimney fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers, which help monitor flue temperatures where wood stoves are in use, then adjust burning practices as needed.

TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFETY - October 31, 2011, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Don't get caught up in the holiday spirit —make sure your children trick-or-treat safely.

- Rather than buying a mask, use makeup to decorate children. That way, they can see more easily.
- Make sure they have a flashlight and are wearing retroreflective material. Dress children in warm, light colored clothing so that they may be easily seen when crossing the street.
- Do not purchase Halloween costumes and other items which are not marked "Flameproof" or "Flame-Retardant".
- Remind children to skip houses that are not well-lit.
- Check candy before allowing kids to eat it.
- Avoid tricks that could cause bodily injury, destroy property, or cause a fire.

HIKING AND PICNICS/CAMPING

As you take in the fall's beautiful scenery, think ahead, be prepared, and stay safe.

- Check the weather forecast before heading outdoors for a hike. It is not safe to hike when thunderstorms or heavy snowfall is expected.
- Carry drinking water. Don't drink from streams, springs, or lakes without first properly treating the water.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Don't try to get too close to wild animals.
- Stay on the trail if you leave it, you may get lost.
- To help prevent food poisoning, keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. Don't store perishable foods in a hot car.
- Clean all surfaces and utensils that come into contact with raw meat or meat juices before re-using them.
- Wash hands frequently when preparing food, and before serving and eating.
- Keep kids away from grills and lighter fluid. Keep grills away from anything that can burn.
- Be aware of tiny deer ticks that carry Lyme disease and know the diseases's symptoms. When in a potentially infested area, apply insect repellent, wear light-colored, long sleeved-shirts, pants, and socks.
- Do not build a fire near tree trunks, fallen trees, or over hanging branches.
- When extinguishing a campfire, let it die down, then break up the coals or logs, spread the pieces, soak them with water, and then cover the area with dirt or sand.

Fall 2011 9

The Borough of Quakertown Offers Autumn Safety Tips for the Quakertown Community

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents must do some homework to keep their kids healthy and safe. Don't let safety "fall" by the wayside.

- Walk and ride to school safely. Obey traffic lights and signals, walk only in crosswalks, and listen to the crossing guard.
- If your kids bike to school, be sure they wear a helmet.
- If possible, always walk your child to the bus stop and pick them up as well.
- Keep backpacks light a child's backpack should only be 5 to 10 percent of his or her body weight, according to the American Chiropractic Association.
- A backpack with wheels is easy to maneuver and reduces back stress. If your child does choose to wear a backpack, utilize both straps. Slinging the backpack over one shoulder may cause spinal curvature.

PET SAFETY

Watch out for family pets as you prepare for the cold, festive days of fall.

- Many brands of antifreeze are highly toxic. Store new and used antifreeze in a sealed container.
- Chocolate is a special treat for nearly all humans during Halloween and Thanksgiving, but it is toxic to dogs, cats, and birds.
- Holiday meals can be hazardous to pets. Chicken and turkey bones can get stuck and pierce the digestive tract. Rich foods can cause pancreatitis or bloating.
- Indoor pets not acclimated to winter temperatures should not be outside in cold weather for long periods. Outdoor pets can withstand fairly cold temperatures, but make sure they have proper shelter from wind and rain, and provide them with good bedding. Frostbite is a winter hazard to pets.

FALL CLEANUP

Yard work does not end simply because summer is over. Here are some safety tips for tackling autumn tasks around your home.

- When lifting heavy bags of mulch, use a wheelbarrow when possible, and remember to lift with your legs, not with your back.
- Be careful when pruning. Pruning from a ladder is especially dangerous.
- To avoid blisters when doing yard work, wear gloves.
- If you are doing a lot of raking, try an ergonomic rake, which can be found at most hardware stores and garden centers

Most important of all, remember to call 911 in the event of an emergency. For additional information and safety tips contact Douglas C. Wilhelm, Fire Marshal at 215-536-5001 Ext. 114



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...continued from page 7

energy from the sun. The inverter then converts that direct current to an alternating current (AC), which electronic devices and appliances can use. Batteries are not necessary to supplement the system and any excess electricity generated by the solar panels is redirected by the inverter back into the grid where it can be used elsewhere.

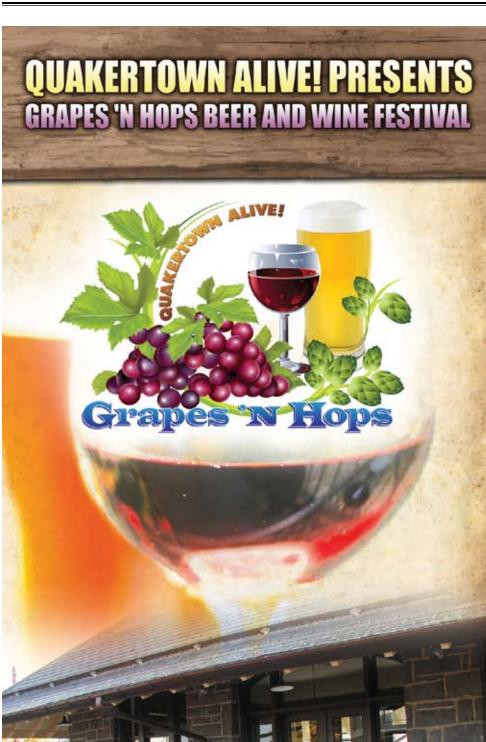
Distributed systems work independently from a utility's electric grid, using batteries to store the power. Similar to a grid-tied system, distributed solar panels typically use a power inverter to convert the direct current from the sun into an alternating current, to be used on location. However, some systems function without an inverter and run only DC appliances.

What are the Costs and Benefits of Solar Power?

The Environment: Few environmental issues arise in regard to solar power development. As with wind power, the use of solar power eliminates air emissions, such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury that result from the use of traditional fossil fuel energy sources. The manufacturing, transportation and set-up of solar power equipment may contribute to small quantities of air emissions, particularly when fossil fuels are used. The manufacturing of PV cells involves the generation of small quantities of hazardous materials. However, with proper handling, these materials pose little risk to humans or the environment. Certain applications of solar energy, such as central power stations, require large amounts of land, raising issues of wildlife protection and land use. Five acres of land are often needed for each megawatt of capacity. In previously developed urban areas, however, rooftop solar systems are a much more practical application, and can even help save on cooling costs by absorbing energy that would otherwise be transferred to the building's interior.

Dollars and Cents: Economically, the solar industry still faces several barriers to its development such as low fossil fuel energy prices; financial subsidies, incentives, and taxes that are biased toward the fossil fuel industry; and the failure of the economic marketplace to account for the environmental impacts of traditional energy sources. However, within the past three decades, solar power has dropped in price from \$.80 per kilowatt-hour to \$.20 per kilowatt-hour. Today, solar power remains an economically viable alternative energy source, and the many financing programs and incentives available make it even more attractive to both home and business owners. Solar power is particularly economical when the electricity generated from photovoltaics is used to offset peak demand for electricity from conventional sources. Especially during the summer months, solar resources are the greatest in the middle of the day, coinciding with peak electricity demand to run air conditioners and other cooling devices.







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This event is outdoors and is a rain or shine event.



Enjoy beer and wine tasting at the beautiful, historic downtown Quakertown train station. Tickets are LIMITED!

Wine by the bottle will be available to purchase and can be picked up at the gate upon your exiting the festival. Food will be for sale by a variety of vendors.

Sorry, no babies, children, or pets allowed (with the exception of service animals of course).

Tickets: \$35 General Admission, \$10 Designated Driver. Includes admission & unlimited beer & wine tastings. Food will be available for purchase. You must be 21 with ID to enter (no exceptions).

Visit our Autumn Alive! event in downtown Quakertown from 10am - 4pm.

Enjoy live entertainment by the Daisy Jug Band

Special hotel rates with shuttle service will be available for festival guests: go to quakertownalive.com

The Grapes 'N Hops festival is a charitable event. All proceeds benefit Quakertown Alive!, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Quakertown.

THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



For more information and directions: info@quakertownalive.com • grapesnhops.org



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Saturday, October 22, 2011 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Downtown Quakertown**

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SWIFTREACH EMERGENCY CONTACT REQUEST



The Borough of Quakertown implemented a Public Notification System with Swiftreach that provides the ability to communicate specific information by recorded voice message in both emergency and non-emergency situations. Examples of information customers may receive include: system-wide emergency, localized water main break or a temporary interruption of service due to construction or repair work. We recently utilitzed this service to help keep residents informed during Hurricane Irene.

Please add the Borough of Quakertown to the list of entities you provide with updated contact information as it changes. Only with your cooperation can we ensure you are contacted in a timely matter should the need arise.

Your information is automatically generated by the Swiftreach system, and if you have not been receiving these emergency calls, please let us know by completing and returning this form.

The only purpose for which this information will be used is to contact you regarding Borough issues.

	SwiftReach Emergency Contact Request
Personal Infor	mation
Name:	
Account Numl	ber:
Address (Phy	rsical only, no P.O. Boxes)
Street:	
Apartment, Su	uite, or Unit Number:
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
	ne Number: (Number you can be contacted at to convey important
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Check h	ere for preferred phone with a hearing impaired TDD/TTY device.
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Borough of Quakertown

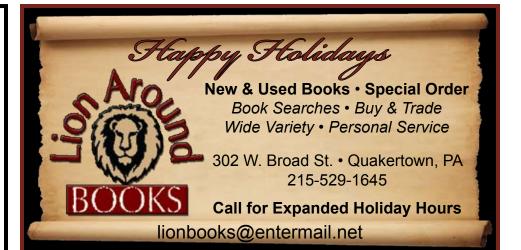
_____TDD/TTY - Check TDD ONLY if you are hearing impaired and would like tone delivery of emergency messages - messages delivered to phone numbers marked TDD will ONLY be delivered in TDD/TTY format.



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MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Locally, 8 percent of our teenagers have admitted to illegally using prescription medications and about 70 percent of them have gotten the drugs from family medicine cabinets.

Medications Impact the Environment

Prescription and over-the-counter medications are a source of pollution when they are flushed down the toilet or drain. Wastewater facilities and septic systems are not currently designed to process pharmaceutical products. Compounds passing through these systems can impact surface waters, groundwater, and drinking water supplies. Pharmaceuticals can also be released into waterways via stormwater run-off from fields applied with manure or biosolids.

Concerns about Medicine Disposal

Medicines that are flushed down a toilet or sink contaminate water resources, resulting in reproductive and developmental problems in fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Improperly discarded containers provide personal information that can be used illegally, including identity theft.

There is the possibility of poisoning from accidental ingestion, particularly by small children and pets, if medicines are thrown "as is" in the trash or unneeded or expired medicines are kept in the house.

Guidelines for Proper Disposal

DO NOT DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS DOWN THE TOILET!

Remove ALL personal identification or prescription label from the container before placing in the drop bin in the reception area in Borough Hall.

Medications may be dropped off during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

A relationship that goes beyond the bank statement At National Penn, great relationships are business as usual. Whether you need a mortgage, loan, checking account or are concerned about ID theft, we're here to listen to your concerns and offer sound financial advice. It's all part of how we go beyond the expected for our customers.

Quakertown-Richland Community Office 215.529.2917

Diane Rice, Manager 604 N. West End Blvd. Quakertown, PA 18951





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~ Christmas Book Sale at Lion Around Books

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POLICE: TRUCK PARKING



From time to time, the Quakertown Police receive complaints about certain vehicles parked on the borough streets. As per ordinance, the following restrictions pertain:

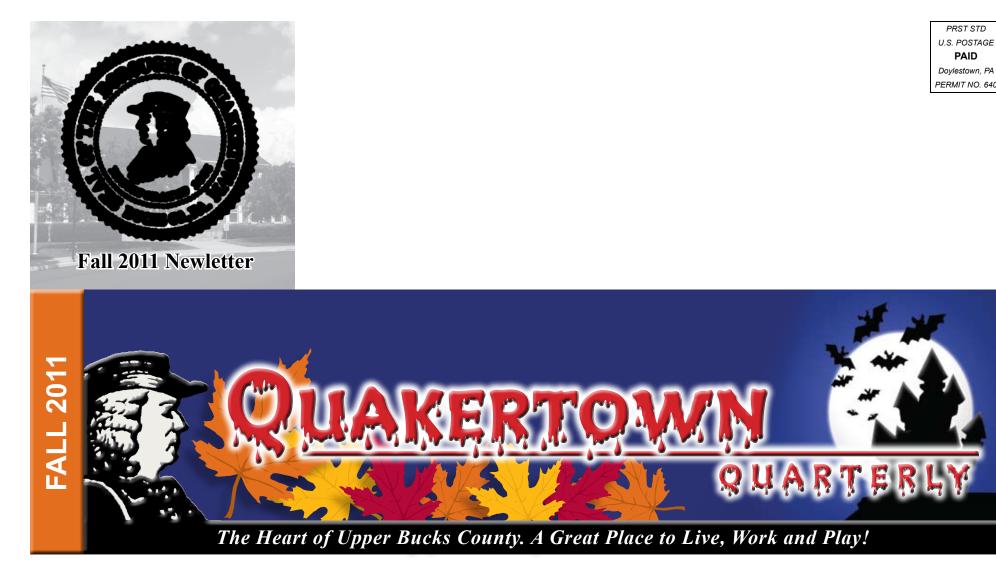
- 1) It is unlawful for any person to park any commercial vehicle, truck tractor, tractor or motor home on any street in the Borough between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.
- 2) It is unlawful for any person to park any kind of trailer, wrecker, bus, tow truck, rollback truck or truck camper on any street in the Borough between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am for more than three consecutive nights.

The Quakertown Police do place parking tickets on the above vehicles if they are parked on the streets.

Officer Mark Watkins Quakertown Borough Police Department Traffic Safety Officer 215-536-5002



The Borough of Quakertown is now on Facebook. Should you be interestedand we hope you arefollow us to get updates on events and happenings around the Borough. Like Us at Borough of Quakertown



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