



# Quakertown

## QUARTERLY

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

Winter 2012 Newsletter



As we welcome 2012 we have to look back and evaluate our response to all the natural disasters that happened during 2011. From Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, an earthquake, and the Halloween snow storm, there are very few people who were not impacted by at least one of these events.

Local, state and federal governments have worked to help residents prepare for what Mother Nature has to offer. If a disaster occurs and you are impacted by it, you should be prepared to survive a minimum of three days. If a true disaster hits, you may not be able to go to the grocery store to get food or water, or to the gas station to get fuel. One of the most dangerous times to travel is during the height of the storm or immediately after the storm has ended. These times are dangerous because you do not know if the roads are passable. Emergency vehicles and municipal vehicles will also be out trying to make the roads passable and safe, they do not need to be dodging vehicles while doing their work.

There are many agencies, including the Borough of Quakertown, that can help during and after a disaster emergency. Some of

these agencies are listed at the end of this article. Please keep the information for these agencies available for future use.

One of the best things you can do is BE PREPARED. Some disasters, such as weather phenomena, can be prepared for in that you may have a few days to get ready for the upcoming storm. Other man-made disasters cannot be prepared for; they come without any warning and can impact a neighborhood for days or weeks.

You must have the tools and a plan in place to make it on your own until public utilities can be restored and life returns to normal.

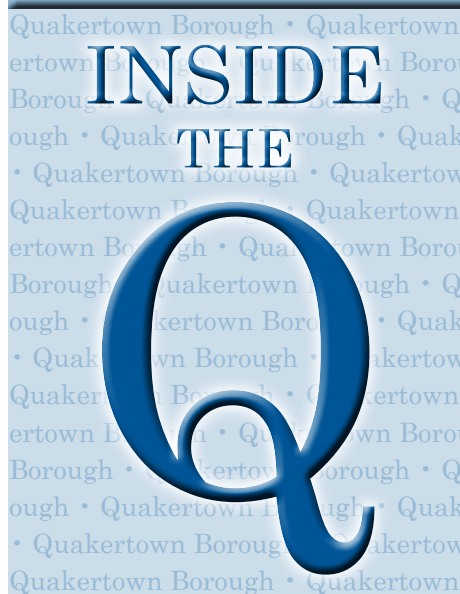
Visit [Readypa.org](http://Readypa.org) and [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) to get valuable information about natural and manmade disasters and how to prepare to weather the storm.

Other websites with valuable information are:

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.pema.state.pa.us](http://www.pema.state.pa.us)

[www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)



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Life doesn't have to be a pain in the knee...

...or neck, back, shoulder, elbow, hip, ankle...

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For more information call 877-752-5448 and visit [www.slbji.org](http://www.slbji.org).

**St Luke's**  
Bone & Joint Institute

**Penn View**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Kindergarten Visitation**  
Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
8:45- 10:30 am  
(Snow Date January 25th)

**DON'T GET LEFT OUT IN THE COLD!**

**HAVE OTHER CHILDREN AGE 3 - 8TH GRADE?**  
Stop by our *Souper Supper and Express Tours*  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2012**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
(Snow Date Feb. 21st)

**FREE! KIDS' WINTER SURVIVAL KIT**  
to every prospective kindergartener that attends the event.

- ▶ Come hear what other parents are saying about Penn View
- ▶ Come see our teachers and students
- ▶ Come visit our classrooms
- ▶ Come get a brief overview of our program

- ▶ Programs for 3 years olds, 4 year olds and Pre-Kindergarten
- ▶ Bible memory, daily devotions
- ▶ Outstanding, 4 year degreed teachers
- ▶ Secure, spacious, clean, modern campus

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420 Godshall Road • Souderton, PA 18964

**Phone: (215) 723-1196 • [www.pennview.org](http://www.pennview.org)**

**Questions?**

**Email Sandra Harrell at [sharrell@pennview.org](mailto:sharrell@pennview.org) for more details.**

# 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.

January's Council meeting will be held Tuesday, January 3. Borough Council's regular meeting is the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The work session meeting is 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.org](http://www.quakertown.org).

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

## 2012 LARGE TRASH PICK UP SCHEDULE

JANUARY						
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# QUAKERTOWN Alive!

## EVENTS

Come join us in Quakertown for all the events hosted by Quakertown Alive!. Quakertown Alive! is dedicated to help downtown Quakertown businesses grow and prosper by increasing knowledge of the downtown through marketing and events held throughout the year. Let us know what your favorite event is by taking the poll on our website. To date, forty-eight percent of people who took our online poll chose Arts Alive! as their favorite event.

**Quakertown Alive! is hosting more events every year and thousands of people come to Quakertown to see these events!**

**Arts Alive**

**Autumn Alive**

**Garden Affaires**

**Properties of Merit**

**Christmas House Tour**

**Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony**

**Pumpkin Ball**

**Grapes 'N Hops Brewfest**

All these events help to promote the downtown businesses. Make it a point to come and see what all the excitement is about!

Arts Alive will be held on May 19, 2012; Garden Affaires will be held on June 10, 2012. Properties of Merit will begin in late spring with the nomination of properties. If you know of a home or business in the Borough of Quakertown that deserves a nomination, please email us at [events@quakertownalive.com](mailto:events@quakertownalive.com).

More information on all our events can be found on our website, [www.quakertownalive.com](http://www.quakertownalive.com).

## GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

1811 Old Bethlehem Pike, N.  
Quakertown, PA 18951  
[www.quakertownbfc.org](http://www.quakertownbfc.org)  
215-536-6096

Email: [grace@quakertownbfc.org](mailto:grace@quakertownbfc.org)

**Ronald L. Kohl, Pastor**

**David J. Watkins, Pastor of Congregational Care**



### "Special Ministries"

- Grace music - Adult & Children's Choirs and Choral Ensembles (*men and women*)
- Special Music • Men's Small Group Bible Studies & Periodic Breakfasts & Speakers
  - Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study (*September—May*)
  - **Vacation Bible School for Children entering K-6th grade**  
(*This year it will take place July 23 - 27 from 9am-11:30am*)
- "Keenagers" - Senior Adults' Monthly Luncheon during the months of September thru May

### Sunday Hours:

*June - August*

9 am - Worship Service  
9:40 am - Children's Church (4 yrs. - 1st grade)  
6:30 pm - Evening Worship

### Wednesday Hours:

*June - August*

7 pm - Kid's Club  
7 pm - Adult Study & Prayer

### Sunday Hours:

*September—May*

9 am - Sunday School for all ages  
10:10 am - Worship Service  
6:30 pm - Evening Worship except on 2nd & 4th Sundays  
2nd & 4th Sunday evenings—Small Group Fellowships

### Wednesday Hours:

*September - May*

6:30 pm - Awana for children  
6:30 pm - Teens for Christ (7th - 12th grade)  
7:00 pm - Adult Study & Prayer

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[reissagency@verizon.net](mailto:reissagency@verizon.net)

**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 and make sure that we have everything we need.

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

To maintain the Borough of Quakertown, we have 15 pieces of equipment which consist 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 prevent flooding.

Keep fire hydrants clear of snow. It is very important that the fire hydrant in front of your residence or near you is shoveled clear. Easy access to the hydrant will allow the fire department quicker response time in case of fire.

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, clear and safe.

When we have a 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 we will start very early in the morning before the opening of businesses and rush hour. We realize this is an inconvenience but it must be done.

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.

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

## Snow FAQs

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

Snow plowing will begin after 2 or more inches have gathered on the streets. 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 and side streets. We have a crew out for different sections of the Borough at all times.

### Where should I park?

If possible, park 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 other roads along with paved alleys.

### Who is responsible for clearing sidewalks?

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



**CAROL ANN HILL**  
Deposit Services Representative  
QNB team member since 1998



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*Yesterday.*

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*Today.*

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*Tomorrow.*

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# DATES OF INTEREST

January 2, 2012	New Year's Holiday Borough Hall Closed No disruption of trash pickup
January 2, 2012	Chesmont/IWS begins holiday tree pick up. Please remove plastic bags and tinsel
January 16, 2012	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Banks Closed Borough Hall offices open
February 20, 2012	Presidents' Day Banks Closed Borough Hall offices open
March 11, 2012	Daylight savings time begins Set clocks ahead one hour Change the battery in your smoke detector!

## ADVERTISE IN THE QUAKERTOWN QUARTERLY!

**5500 NEWSLETTERS SENT OUT TO LOCAL QUAKERTOWN RESIDENTS**

EIGHTH PAGE	\$200
QUARTER PAGE	\$350
HALF PAGE	\$575
FULL PAGE	\$1100

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WATCHES • TOYS**

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Computer Backup**

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PA 1-800-953-6664**

**33-43 S. 14TH ST., QUAKERTOWN**



*Celebrating our 26th Anniversary!*

### 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.

Questions? Please contact:  
**CHESMONT DISPOSAL**  
P.O. Box 1500  
Skipack, PA 19474  
800-710-1333  
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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**FCR Recycling**  
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Community



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

Celebrating  
60 Years

## PROPERTIES OF MERIT

Quakertown Alive! held its award ceremony for the Properties of Merit on October 13 at the Train Station. It was a full house with everyone excited to hear the outcome for all the categories including the People's Choice Award.

**The winners for the event were:**

### Founders Award

Bell Tower Professional Building  
Bob & Barb Moffett  
Doug & Dee Hutchinson

### Preservation Award

Adam & Donna Devlin  
Jade House

### Community Award

First United Church of Christ  
Pastors Douglas & Joyce Donigian

### Community Citizens Award

Penn Valley Church  
Awarded for volunteering time for Panther Playground

### Grand Prize Winner

Doris Lombardi & Delpert LeFevre  
140 South Eighth Street

### People's Choice 2011

Charlie & Kim Mengle  
340 Franklin Street

### People's Choice - Twins/Rows

Ken & Ginny Bossert  
36 North Hellertown Avenue

### Honorees 2011 Properties of Merit

Alan J. & Joan Pavlica  
134 South 2nd Street

Ray & Betty Fulmer  
316 Park Avenue

Gail B. Wireman  
1019 West Broad Street

Tammi Cassel  
97 Braithwaite Lane

Ernest & Naomi Naylor  
146 South Third Street

Earl & Deborah Slifer  
704 Juniper Street

**Thank you to our Sponsors for another successful year of Properties of Merit!**

St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital  
Farm Credit  
First Savings



# LEARN ABOUT SMOKE ALARMS

A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market, but they fall under two basic types: **ionization** and **photoelectric**.

It cannot be stated definitively that one is better than the other in every fire situation that could arise in a residence. Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different, yet potentially fatal fires, and because no one can predict what type of fire might start in a home, the **USFA recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with:**

- **Both ionization AND photoelectric smoke alarms, OR**
- **Dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors**

In addition to the basic types of alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

Smoke alarms are battery powered or they are hard-wired into the home's electrical system. If the smoke alarm is powered by a battery, it runs on either a disposable 9-volt battery or a non-replaceable 10-year lithium ("long-life") battery. A backup battery is usually present on hardwired alarms and needs to be periodically replaced.

These batteries must be tested on a regular basis and, in most cases, should be replaced at least once each year (except for lithium batteries). See the Smoke Alarm Maintenance section for more information.

Smoke alarms are not expensive and are worth the lives they can help save. Ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms cost between \$6 and \$20. Dual sensor smoke alarms cost between \$24 and \$40.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or early in the morning, so the U.S. Fire Administration recommends installing smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas.

Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the

manufacturer's installation instructions.

**Hardwired smoke alarms should be installed by a qualified electrician.**

## Smoke Alarm Maintenance

Smoke alarms must be maintained! A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all.

A smoke alarm only works when it is properly installed and maintained. Depending on how your smoke alarm is powered (9-volt, 10-year lithium, or hardwired), you'll have to maintain it according to manufacturer's instructions. Here are some general guidelines for smoke alarm maintenance:

### Smoke alarm powered by a 9-volt battery

- Test the alarm monthly.
- Replace the batteries at least once per year.
- The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

### Smoke alarm powered by a 10-year lithium (or "long life") battery

- Test the alarm monthly.
- Since you cannot (and should not) replace the lithium battery, the entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced according to manufacturer's instructions.

### Smoke alarm that is hardwired into the home's electrical system

- Test the alarm monthly.
- The backup battery should be replaced at least once per year.
- The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

A smoke alarm is just doing its job when it sounds while you're cooking or taking a shower with a great deal of steam. If this happens, do not remove the battery, instead, you should:

- Open a window or door and press the "hush" button,
- Wave a towel at the alarm to clear the air, or
- Move the entire alarm several feet away from the location.

Disabling a smoke alarm by removing the battery can be a deadly mistake.

## Finally..

Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

**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.





# Rainbow Ridge Farm Equestrian Center

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## HELP THE FIRE DEPARTMENT – ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT



As winter approaches, please help the Borough of Quakertown Fire Department by adopting the fire hydrant closest to your home or business and keep it free of snow during the winter.

Make a point to uncover your fire hydrant after each and every snow-fall. Clear a path approximately 3 feet around the hydrant and shovel a path from the street or roadway up to the fire hydrant. These actions will allow the fire department to quickly locate the fire hydrant, obtain a water supply for firefighting activities, and give the fire department room to work with this

hydrant should the need arise.

Also, consider helping a neighbor who may have a medical condition or is elderly, by shoveling out a hydrant in front of their home. This act of kindness will benefit the entire neighborhood.

At a fire scene the Fire Department must quickly locate and gain a water supply source from the closest fire hydrant. A fire engine carries enough water on board for approximately 3 ½ minutes of firefighting. If a fire hydrant is buried by snow it is difficult to find and valuable time must be spent digging it out. It may take from 4 to 6 minutes to dig out a fire hydrant buried by snow. This delay in gaining a water supply from a fire hydrant may disrupt the timely manner in which firefighters are able to fight the fire and may allow a fire to grow.

Remember: a fire doubles in size every 20 seconds.

The "Adopt A Hydrant" program is informal, therefore it is not necessary to advise the fire department which hydrants you will be clearing snow from.

On behalf of the Borough of Quakertown Fire Department, thank you for keeping the community's fire hydrants clear of snow and keeping our community safe!

## BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN CENSUS QUICK FACTS

**Total population**  
**8,979**

**Male population**  
**4,417 with a median age of 35.8 years**

**Female population**  
**4,562 with a median age of 40.3 years**

People QuickFacts – Quakertown	Count	Percentage
Population, 2010	8,979	
Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010		0.5
Population, 2000	8,931	
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2010		6.6
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2010		4.9
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2010		4.9
Female persons, percent, 2010		50.8
Male persons, percentage, 2010		49.2
<b>Population By Race</b>		
White persons, percent, 2010 (a)		90.6
Black persons, percent, 2010 (a)		2.4
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2010 (a)		0.3
Asian persons, percent, 2010 (a)		2.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2010 (a)		0
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2010		1.9
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2010 (b)		6.0
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2010		88.0
<b>Other Information</b>		
Living in same house 1 year & over, 2005-2009		84.4
Foreign born persons, percent, 2005-2009		5.4
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2005-2009		9.7
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2005-2009		20.7
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2005-2009		20.7
		<b>Minutes</b>
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2005-2009		26.2

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.  
(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.  
Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure show



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# WINTER STORM FIRE SAFETY

A wide range of natural disasters occur within the United States every year. Natural disasters can have a devastating effect on you and your home. The U.S. Fire Administration encourages you to use the following safety tips to help protect yourself, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after a winter storm. You can greatly reduce your chance of becoming a fire casualty by being able to identify potential hazards and following the outlined safety tips.

## Fire Related Hazards Present During and After a Winter Storm

- Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards.
- Damaged or downed utility lines can present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Water damaged appliances and utilities can be electrically charged.
- Frozen water pipes can burst and cause safety hazards.
- Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.

## Chemical Safety

- Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.

## Electrical Safety

- If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Look for and replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, loose prongs, and plugs.
- Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.
- Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.

## Gas Safety

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open.
- Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.
- Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional.

## Generator Safety

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or 'backfeed' can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

## Heating Safety

- Kerosene heaters may not be legal in your area and should only be used

where approved by authorities.

- Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.
- Alternative heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away.
- Make sure your alternative heaters have 'tip switches.' These 'tip switches' are designed to automatically turn off the heater in the event they tip over.
- Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines.
- Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot.
- Refuel heaters only outdoors.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed and at least 3 feet away from combustible materials. Ensure they have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other combustible items.

## and Remember...

- Always use a flashlight - not a candle - for emergency lighting.
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. All batteries should be replaced with new ones at least once a year.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.

## Finally...

Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

For Additional Information  
Quakertown Fire Department  
35 N. Third St., Quakertown  
[www.quakertownfd.com](http://www.quakertownfd.com)

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[www.qfc1.org](http://www.qfc1.org)

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## LIHEAP

**IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY YOUR HOME ENERGY BILL, YOUR HOME MAY NOT BE SAFE, AND YOU MAY BE AT RISK OF SERIOUS ILLNESS OR INJURY.**

**THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) MAY BE ABLE TO HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

### STAY HEALTHY IN YOUR HOME

Energy assistance is important to all that receive it, but more so if someone in your home is elderly, disabled or a child under 6 years old. These persons are especially at risk for life threatening illness or death if their home is too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer.

### BE SAFE IN YOUR HOME

You can face safety risks if you are unable to pay your home energy bills. Some people resort to unsafe methods to keep their homes warm or cool. These include the use of fireplaces, stoves, improperly vented portable heaters, barbecue grills, or overloading electrical circuits. These methods are not only fire hazards, but also create the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR HELP WITH HOME HEATING AND/OR COOLING BILLS.**

### WHAT IS LIHEAP?

LIHEAP is a Federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills.

LIHEAP can help you stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. By doing so, you can reduce the risk of health and safety problems (such as illness, fire, or eviction).

The federal government does not provide energy assistance directly to the public. Instead, LIHEAP operates in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, and the U.S. territories.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE LIHEAP ASSISTANCE?

The LIHEAP program in your community determines if your household income qualifies for the program. The LIHEAP program may also require households to meet additional eligibility criteria to receive LIHEAP assistance.\*

\*NOTE: The availability of LIHEAP assistance is not guaranteed. Often most of

the Federal LIHEAP funds are spent during the winter.

### WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES LIHEAP PROVIDE?

Your LIHEAP program may be able to offer you one or more of the following types of assistance:

- Bill payment assistance.
- Energy crisis assistance.
- Weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

### WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO APPLY?

#### YOU MAY NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- Recent copies of your utility bills.
- A recent payroll stub or other proof that shows your current gross income.
- Documentation showing income from Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Pension Funds, disability, etc.
- Final Utility Termination Notice (if you've received a shut-off notice from your energy company).
- Proof of present address (e.g., rent receipt, lease or deed, property tax bill).
- Proof of total members living in your household (e.g., birth certificates, school records, etc.).
- Social Security cards (or numbers) for all persons living in your household.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LIHEAP AND WHERE TO APPLY

You can call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) project. NEAR is a free service providing information on where you can apply for LIHEAP. You can speak to someone at NEAR Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. (Mountain Time).

#### You can:

- Call the toll-free phone number at: 1-866-674-6327,
- Send an e-mail to: [energy@ncat.org](mailto:energy@ncat.org)
- Contact the Pennsylvania LIHEAP office at:  
[www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistanceliheap/index.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistanceliheap/index.htm)

This information was presented by:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 Administration for Children and Families  
 Office of Community Services  
 Division of Energy Assistance

## ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENT NOW AVAILABLE!



The Borough of Quakertown offers a website for residents to pay their utility bill online. The website, [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com), allows residents to create a unique, secure log-in to display their utility account information and make 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.

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## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

### Did you know???

#### Identity theft is the fast growing crime in the United States.

Over 9 million cases of identity theft occur every year, mostly stemming from use of the internet. In this age of technology, identity theft will affect one out of every four Americans. Can you recognize a fraudulent e-mail? Can you trust want ads posted on Craig's List? E-mails from sources disguised under a familiar e-mail address or advertisements that seek your personal information are becoming commonplace.

Protect yourself online. NEVER provide your personal information to an unverified source. Information such as your birth date, social security number, bank account information or other information you would never consider giving to a stranger in a mask should never be given over the internet or the phone.

Your best defense is vigilance. Make sure your computer has an up to date anti-virus and anti-spyware program. Don't go on websites that these programs identify as "not a trusted site". If you suspect your identity may have been stolen report it immediately to the police and be sure to check your credit history for suspicious activity.

For more information on internet fraud go to:  
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft//>

Corporal Scott Fogel  
Quakertown Borough Police Department

## SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

Every person in the Borough that owns or is in charge of 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 shall be 36 hours for the removal of snow, sleet or freezing rain. If there is a declared state of emergency, the time limit shall be 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 abrasives on the sidewalk to make travel on the sidewalk reasonably safe; and shall then, as soon afterward as weather permits, remove the snow and ice forming a minimum 24 inch pathway. The snow shall not be removed in such a way that it is deposited on the roadway or vehicular traveled portion of the street.

In the event that the sidewalk does not get cleared, the Borough Manager does have 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.



  
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## FAQ REGARDING LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS

### Question: What is sludge?

Answer: The dictionary reads "mud, mire, or ooze; slush". That is a broad term that usually carries a yucky connotation. All sewage treatment plants make sludge. It is the solids removed from sewage during the treatment process. The characteristics of sludge vary according to the type of treatment processes utilized at the plant. The sludge is then separately treated until it meets or exceeds the standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Then it is no longer called sludge, it is called "biosolids".

### Question: What is the real difference between biosolids and sludge?

Answer: Biosolids have undergone sufficient biological, physical, and chemical treatments for stabilization and pathogen reduction. The exact differences vary from plant to plant by the types of treatments used. However, the end result is that biosolids must meet or exceed the strict standards set by State and Federal government agencies and is of suitably high quality to be land applied. The term is intended to distinguish high-quality, treated sewage sludge from raw sewage sludge and from sewage sludge that contains large quantities of environmental pollutants. Sludge that does not meet the criteria of biosolids cannot be land applied as a soil amendment and must undergo special additional treatments or use other specific disposal options.

### Question: Are biosolids dangerous?

Answer: It is no more dangerous than dirt. You wouldn't eat dirt, so you wouldn't eat biosolids! Biosolids are a lot like dirt without the sand and rocks. Dirt is formed by nature through the natural decomposition of organic matter and the weathering of rocks and stones. Treatment plants imitate nature. The organic matter of sludge decomposes under controlled conditions, making use of naturally occurring microorganisms. These microbes feed on the organic and inorganic matter as well as other microbes, including pathogenic bacteria. The solids are settled and further treated until all the standards are met. The biosolids are tested to make sure that all the standards are met. Some of the parameters tested include pH (acidity or alkalinity), Total Nitrogen, Ammonia Nitrogen, Potassium, Phosphorus, Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium, Iron, Lead, Aluminum, Manganese, Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Chromium, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Selenium, Silver, Zinc, PCB, Specific Oxygen Uptake Rate, and Fecal Coliform. The Quakertown Wastewater Treatment Plant spends thousands of dollars every year for analyses just on their biosolids to ensure the

preservation of human health and the environment.

### Question: Why are biosolids used on farm fields?

Answer: Biosolids are a great soil conditioner. It has slow-releasing micro-nutrients that are more eco-friendly than chemical fertilizers because it adds stable organic matter to enrich depleted soils and fibrous matter to improve the arability of the soil. It is a terrific way to recycle material in a positive and eco-friendly way. Manure jokes about "fresh country air" are common. We know that manure has a reputation for bad odors. In contrast, biosolids usually have a wet, musty-earthly or tarry odor that may be only slightly noticeable. If the biosolids were treated with lime, it may have an ammonia-like odor. If you lived next door to a farm, you would prefer the farmer use biosolids instead of manure or chemical fertilizers.

By using land application for the biosolids, there is a monetary advantage as well. It is less expensive to land apply the biosolids than to dispose of the sludge in a landfill setting.

### Question: Why the bad press about biosolids?

Answer: In could be fear and misinformation. Many have the misconception that biosolids (treated sewage sludge) are fecal matter. The entire treatment process converts the fecal matter and debris in sewage into a totally different material called biosolids. Just as cornbread is different from corn-on-the-cob, biosolids are different from fecal matter. It has undergone physical, chemical and biological changes. The raw material of what eventually is transformed into biosolids originates from you, your homes and neighborhoods, not outer space. When you eat pizza or drink soda, minute traces of those products end up in the sewage. For example, "lycopene" sounds like a dangerous chemical. It is one of the things found in tomatoes that make them red. Phosphoric acid and sodium benzoate were probably in the soda you drank. In other words, the chemicals found in microscopic quantities in biosolids originated from you. As much as recycling of aluminum cans helps your environment, recycling of biosolids through proper land application also helps your environment.

To assist the public to become better informed, the Quakertown Wastewater Treatment Facility arranges group tours and presentations for schools and many civic organizations. We welcome anyone or any group to visit. Please call ahead 215-536-5004 to schedule a visit. Please feel free to call us with your questions concerning our sewers and treatment processes.

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