

AVONDALE BOROUGH

WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2013

Borough of Avondale
Established 1894

Mayor
Dottie Howell

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Bill Shore - President
Steve Cummings -Vice President
Abby Pyle
Wilson Lysle
Jim Duffy
Dave Besselman

Borough Office
110 Pomeroy Avenue
P.O. Box 247
Avondale, PA 19311

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Secretary: Becky Brownback
Treasurer: Sandy Masten

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Contact the Borough Office if you would like a newsletter mailed to you. Newsletter is available on Borough's website or at the Borough Office

WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT ADDRESS CHANGE

National Penn Bank provides the Borough with a lockbox service to collect water, sewer, and trash payments. The bank has requested to change the mailing address. This address change will start with this quarter's billing. (4th Quarter 2012) The new address will be on your invoice and a pre-addressed envelope will be included with your bill. Please call the Borough office if you have any questions. Please change the mailing address to:

Borough of Avondale
P.O. Box 1042
Boyetown, PA 19512-1042

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month at 6:00 P.M. Due to Election Day, the May Council meeting will be held on May 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. If you have anything you would like to discuss at the meeting - please call the Borough Office no later than the Friday before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Water and Sewer Committee meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Please come to this meeting if you have a question or a concern about water or sewer.

WATER & SEWER EMERGENCY

If you have a water or sewer emergency Call:

610-268-2498

Someone is on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

NO INCREASE FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES

Borough Council adopted Tax Ordinance #238 on December 18, 2012.. There will be no increase in real estate taxes. Following are the current tax rates:

Real Estate Tax—3.55 mills for general purposes.

Street Lighting—.45 mills

Real Estate Transfer Tax—1%

Earned Income Tax—1%

RENT OR LEASE ANY UNITS IN YOUR DWELLING?

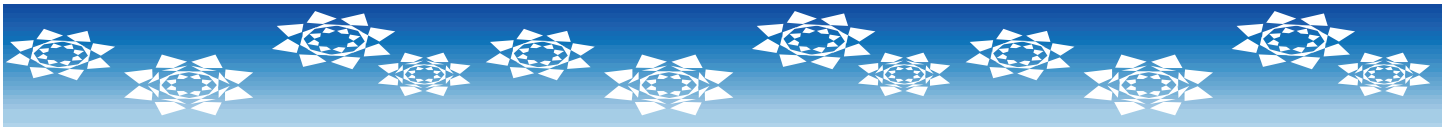
If you rent or lease any units in your dwelling, a yearly inspection is required. You need to get an inspection every year or if you change a tenant during that year. It is up to the homeowner to call the Borough Office for your yearly inspection.

SELLING YOUR HOME ?

If you are selling your home, you will need an inspection to acquire an occupancy permit. This is required before you can go to settlement.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BOROUGH OFFICE





FROM THE DESK OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR BILL SHORE:



Exposing an Invisible Killer

A Factsheet on the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Each year in America, unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning claims more than 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

WHERE DOES CARBON MONOXIDE COME FROM?

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

WHAT ACTIONS DO I TAKE IF MY CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM GOES OFF?

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not.

IF NO ONE IS FEELING ILL:

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

IF ILLNESS IS A FACTOR:

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling ill.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM CO POISONING

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed

to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.

- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.
- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.
- When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

For more information contact:

The U. S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

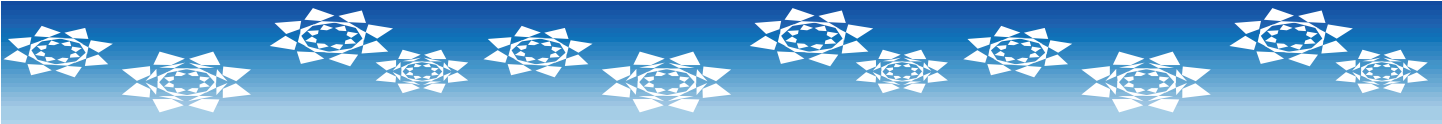
or

Visit the USFA Web site:
www.usfa.fema.gov



Homeland Security





MANAGING SNOW & ICE SAFELY

Winter is upon us and in this area that means cold weather and several snow and ice events to deal with before we feel the warmth of the summer sun, again. While the “warmth” of the winter sun will help to melt the snow and ice, it’s not enough to prevent us from having to utilize other methods to aid in the removal of the ice and snow, so we can walk and drive safely. However, we have learned the hard way, that while the past methods may have been effective in melting the ice and snow, they surely were not *environmentally* friendly. Salt, in particular, has damaged our eco-systems and roads and is also harmful to pets and plants. PennDOT maintains the main road through the Borough and they use non-salt based solutions to treat road surfaces when practical. Salt is used sparingly and the Borough streets are swept in the spring to remove any residual material.

As homeowners, you are also now encouraged to purchase and use the multitude of new products on the market to treat your driveways and walkways. Many of the products are made to be applied *before* to storm event to make snow and ice removal easier. If the event does not occur, the material can be reclaimed to be used again. The products contain: Calcium Chloride, Potassium Chloride and Magnesium Chloride, Urea and Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA). All products have their limitations and they must be applied properly to be effective, so be sure to read the labels and choose the product that will best suit your needs. Keep in mind that the over-application of any chloride based product can be harmful to the environment. There are also organic or natural products that work well as de-icers, such as corn byproducts recycled from mills and breweries. However, they too can be a source of water pollution due to their high phosphorus content.

Some tips to follow:

- Salt and de-icers are not effective if there is more than 3” of snow
- CMA, and salt, are not as effective when temperatures are below 25°.
- Apply all products sparingly and concentrate usage on high use areas.
- Use sand, cinders or cat litter for traction.
- Store your products on impervious surfaces and in dry, covered areas to prevent them from being picked up in stormwater runoff.



We all need to be conscious and conscientious of the products and materials we use to help keep us safe this winter and protect our environment for the future.

Avondale Borough is a MS4 Community.

For additional information go to the Borough’s website and use the PADEP link to their website: www.depweb.state.pa.us or contact Rich Breitenstein at DEP, 484-250-5900.

SNOW STORMS

Please remember to shovel your sidewalks. Borough Ordinance #77 requires sidewalks to be shoveled within 12 hours of a snow event. Be a good neighbor and ensure the safety of others by keeping your sidewalk clear.



PARK OFF THE STREET

When snow is in the forecast, park your vehicle off the street to allow the snow plows to clear the snow off the roadways. This makes the job easier for Borough personnel and keeps your vehicles from being plowed in and decreases the chances of your vehicle being damaged.

COMPOSTING FACILITY

The composting facility will re-open in the Spring. More information to follow in the Spring Newsletter

AVONDALE BOROUGH
110 Pomeroy Avenue
P.O. Box 247
Avondale, PA 19311



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Following are some tips to remind you about your curbside refuse and recycling service:

- Trash and recycling must be out prior to 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

AVONDALE BOROUGH HAS A REFUSE STICKER PROGRAM!

- If you have more trash than will fit in the receptacle, Penn Container will pick up additional trash for a small service fee as long as the trash is contained in a trash bag (not an additional trash container) up to a maximum bag size of 33 gallons.
- Penn Container will require that a REFUSE STICKER be affixed to each bag. These stickers are sold at the Borough Office at a cost of \$2.00 per sticker.

One bulk item from each residence will be picked up on the last Tuesday of each month.

Examples of Bulk Items

one piece of furniture mattress and box spring
One appliance that DOES NOT contain Freon

Appliances with Freon are the responsibility of the resident!

Recycling Items Include

Plastics and Glass bottles with the recycling symbol on the bottom

*Aluminum
*Newspapers

*Cardboard—broken down
*Junk mail/Home Office Paper



Your waste must not include

*Hazardous Waste

*Paint
*Automobile parts

*Liquids

*Paint Thinner

*Construction and demolition debris

*Propane tanks

*Freon items

*Flammables

*Tires



Please direct all questions regarding your trash and recycling pick up to the Borough Office.

Penn Container's drivers will not provide information regarding your service!!!!

Borough Office
110 Pomeroy Avenue
P.O. Box 247
Avondale, PA 19311



website: www.avondaleboro.net
E-mail: secretary_avondale-boro@comcast.net
610-258-8501;phone 610-268-8205; fax