

# AVONDALE BOROUGH

## SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER



April 2020

From the Mayor's Desk:



*It is sad to say that Mayor Howell has handed in her resignation as Mayor of Avondale Borough effective immediately. Through the years as mayor, Dottie acquired millions of dollars in grants and held many successful community events. Thank you Mayor Dottie, for your 23 years of dedicated service. We will miss you and we all wish you the very best!*

### AVONDALE BOROUGH PARK AND CREEK CLEAN UP DAY

SPONSORED BY: AVONDALE / WEST GROVE ROTARY CLUB \* AVONDALE BOROUGH  
BE HERE BREWING COMPANY \* UTOPIA SCAPES  
STROUD WATER RESEARCH CENTER

**Saturday, May 2nd 9:00 AM - 1:00 P.M.**  
**Meet in the parking lot of Be Here Brewing Company**  
**Gloves, Vests, and Garbage Bags provided by Penn DOT**

*We need your name, contact number and the number of volunteers*

*Please send it to: [secretary\\_avondale-boro@comcast.net](mailto:secretary_avondale-boro@comcast.net) or call 610-268-8501*



*This is part of*  
**THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP OF PA**

### **BOROUGH MEETINGS IN APRIL - VIA ZOOM**

To comply with Governor Wolf's Order that all individuals in Chester County stay home and, in an effort, to slow the spread and minimize public exposure to COVID-19 and maintain social distancing, the April meetings will be conducted via Zoom. No attendance in person will be allowed. Members of the public may join online using a computer or smartphone. The information to join the meeting will be posted on the Borough's website and at the Borough Office prior to the meeting. If you do not have a computer or smartphone to join the meeting, you may call the Borough office at 610-268-8501 to get the information to call into the meeting.

If you are unable to participate in the meeting through Zoom platform or by calling in, you may Email comments to [secretary\\_avondale-boro@comcast.net](mailto:secretary_avondale-boro@comcast.net) by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting. Your comments will be read aloud during the public comment portion of the meeting. The agenda will be posted on the Borough's website: [www.avondaleboro.net](http://www.avondaleboro.net) and at the Borough Hall. We are hoping we can hold the May meetings at the Borough Hall. Please see the Borough's website for any updates or call the office.

**Please see the information on the Coronavirus inserted in this newsletter.**

Borough of Avondale  
Established 1894

Mayor - Dottie Howell

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bill Shore - President  
Dave Besselman -Vice President  
Becka Schlimme  
Bob McCue  
Paul Morgan

#### Borough Office

110 Pomeroy Avenue  
P.O. Box 247  
Avondale, PA 19311  
Phone: 610-268-8501  
Fax: 610-268-8205  
Secretary: Becky Brownback  
Treasurer: Sandy Masten

website: [www.avondaleboro.net](http://www.avondaleboro.net)

email: [secretary\\_avondale-boro@comcast.net](mailto:secretary_avondale-boro@comcast.net)

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. If you have anything you would like to discuss at a meeting. Please call the Borough Office by the Friday before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

#### WORK SESSIONS

Work Sessions are held on the second Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter by mail please send an email to:  
[secretary\\_avondale-boro@comcast.net](mailto:secretary_avondale-boro@comcast.net)  
Or call the Borough office and you will be added to the mailing list.

# BE PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE

Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy.



**FEMA**

FEMA V-1008/May 2018

A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly.



May disrupt communications, water, transportation



May close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services



Can cause food spoilage, water contamination



Can prevent use of medical devices

## PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.



Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.



Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Use alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or power-dependent medical devices.



Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.



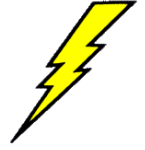
If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.



Check on neighbors.



## **Thunderstorms & Lightning**



Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms. Thunderstorms are dangerous storms that include lightning and can:

- Include powerful winds over 50 MPH;
- Create hail; and Cause flash flooding and tornadoes.

### **IF YOU ARE UNDER A THUNDERSTORM WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY**

- **When thunder roars, go indoors!**
- Move from outdoors into a building or car.
- Pay attention to alerts and warnings.
- Unplug appliances.
- Do not use landline phones.

### **HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A THUNDERSTORM THREATENS - Prepare NOW**

- Know your area's risk for thunderstorms. In most places, they can occur year-round and at any hour.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Identify nearby, sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study, and play.
- Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.

### **Survive DURING**

- When thunder roars, go indoors. A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.
- When you receive a thunderstorm warning or hear thunder, go inside immediately.
- If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones. Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.
- Protect your property. Unplug appliances and other electric devices. Secure outside furniture.
- If boating or swimming, get to land and find a sturdy, grounded shelter or vehicle immediately.
- If necessary, take shelter in a car with a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal.

**Avoid flooded roadways. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.**

### **Be Safe AFTER**

- Listen to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.

Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately.





## REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION

The Borough's Tax Collector will have office hours  
Friday, May 22nd from 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Avondale Borough Hall - 110 Pomeroy Avenue



This is the only day you can pay in person.

If you can't make this date; please use the mail for your payments.

You can only pay the Tax Collector The Borough Office can not take your payment.

*Sherry Seace,*  
Avondale Borough Tax Collector

### AVON GROVE LIBRARY

The Avon Grove Library located in West Grove has many activities for all ages. From daily story times and special events to a teen service club, book club for adults, and crafting sessions for all ages.

You can learn more about what the library offers by going to their website at:

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

You can also call them at 610-869-2004

## READYCHESCO.ORG

ReadyChesco is a system that helps County and Local officials send emergency text alerts and voice calls to you quickly. ReadyChesco can send these to your cell phone, home phone, office phone, pager, and/or e-mail account.

This system will be used to provide ongoing government information to alert those groups that you have signed up for. Emergencies can happen at any time and it is our goal to send you critical information as quickly as possible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system will also be used to relay emergency notifications such as evacuation and shelter-in-place orders to all users in the system.

It is free to sign up for ReadyChesco, and you can choose the types of alerts you want to get. You can choose to stop getting text messages at any time.

### ENROLL TODAY

Go to [readychesco.org](http://readychesco.org)

Chester County's official source for emergency information  
and government notifications

### Community and Emergency Information

Tune Your Radio To  
**1670 AM**

Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management

### Property Maintenance

The Borough's Code Enforcement Officer does weekly inspections for property maintenance issues. Here are some common items our inspector looks for:

- \* Weeds or grass that are not cut in excess of 6 inches in height.
- \* Furniture not designed for outdoor use.
- \* Vehicles that are: unlicensed, no valid inspection, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair
- \* Accumulation of trash, equipment,



## **WHEN DO YOU NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?**

The Borough enforces the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, the 2015 International Construction Codes and amended sections of the 2015 International Construction Codes.

All non residential alterations, repairs, replacement, relocation and new construction are required to make application for a permit.

Building permits are required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy classification of a building or erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace an electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

Detached carports, Detached Private Garages, Greenhouses, and Sheds which are under 1000 square feet and are an accessory to a detached single family dwelling requires a *zoning permit*.

Ordinary repairs to structures are exempt and do not require a building permit (*however they are required to meet the Code*).

### **EXEMPT**

- Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops and similar finishing work.
- One story tool or storage sheds, and similar uses provided it is less than 1000 square feet. (electrical when installed requires an electrical permit. A zoning permit is required).
- Prefabricated pools with less than 24 inches of water. Storable pools require a permit when more than 24 inches of water.
- Swings and playhouses.
- Window awnings projecting less than 54 inches off exterior wall without additional support.
- Replacement of existing roof material not exceeding 25% of the total roof area performed within any 12 month period.
- Replacement of existing siding.
- Replacement of windows that do not increase in size.
- Replacement of rain water gutters and downspouts.
- Minor electrical repair and maintenance such as receptacles, switches, and lighting fixtures remaining in the same location.
- Replacement of faucets, vanities, lavatories, sinks, water closets and other plumbing fixtures remaining in the same location. (*when plumbing lines are being changed a plumbing permit is required*).

### **Permits required for the following:**

- The cutting away of any wall, removal of structural or load bearing supports.
- The removal or changing of the main means of egress (ex; front door).
- The addition, alteration, replacement of any plumbing lines such as, standpipes, water supply lines, sewer, drainage waste lines, gas, or similar piping.
- Electrical wiring that is relocated, replaced, or altered.
- Stand by generators permanently installed.
- Mechanical systems that are replaced, relocated or alter.

**PERMIT APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BOROUGH'S WEBSITE.  
APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOROUGH OFFICE.**



## ***PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH WIPES DOWN THE TOILET***

With hand hygiene at the top of everyone's minds and toilet paper in high demand, many households are increasing their use of sanitizing wipes and "flushable" wipes. Please do not flush these wipes down the toilet. Flushing wipes, paper towels, or other paper products not intended for use in wastewater systems, down the toilet can lead to sewer backups and in-home plumbing issues which may be expensive to repair. Even wipes labeled as "flushable" or "biodegradable" can cause backups for our sewer plant and headaches for homeowners. The Borough provides an essential service, so please help us out by putting wipes, paper towels and other products in the trash where they belong, not in your sewer system where they can damage the equipment and cause blockages.

### **TRASH AND RECYCLING**

Trash and recycling are picked up on Tuesdays. All trash containers must be placed at the curb for pick-up no later than 6:00 a.m. and removed within 24 hours.

#### **BULK PICK UP**

One bulk item will be picked up on the last Tuesday of each month. Following are some samples of bulk items: one piece of furniture (sofa, chair)

- \* mattress and box spring are considered one item
- \* washer,\*dryer \*stove

#### **RECYCLING MATERIALS ACCEPTED**

- ◇ Newspapers: The entire newspaper including inserts
- ◇ Cartons: milk juice, etc.
- ◇ Aluminum, steel, and bimetal cans: Food and beverage cans only
- ◇ Glass: Bottles & jars. Food and beverage only
- ◇ Plastic: Food and beverage containers marked #1 thru #7
- ◇ Plastic: Detergent and soap containers marked #1 thru #7  
*Please rinse all containers listed above*
- ◇ Paper: Magazines, junk mail, cardboard, phone books & paperboard (cereal & clean pizza boxes).

For any service or weather alerts please visit Trash Tech's website at [www.trashtech.com](http://www.trashtech.com) and go to the Borough of Avondale link or you can sign up for Text Service Alerts at [www.trashtech.com](http://www.trashtech.com)

Take your electronics to SECCRA Community Landfill for recycling at: 219 Street Road West Grove, PA

### ***COMPOSTING PICK UP***

Yard waste pick up will begin on Monday, March 23rd and will continue every Monday until December 7th.

Only Paper Yard Waste Bags will be picked up  
Bags must be out by 7:00 a.m.

You can purchase bags at the Borough Office or you can use your own.

5.00 for a pack of 15

*Monday Pick Up*

BAGS ARE FOR YARD WASTE, LEAVES, AND TWIGS  
SMALLER THAN 1/4" IN DIAMETER

*30 LB WEIGHT LIMIT*

Tree limbs must be tied and bundled. No more than 4 feet in length.

COMPOSTING WILL ONLY BE PICKED UP IN PAPER YARD BAGS  
*No Exceptions!*



**OPEN BURNING IS PROHIBITED  
IN THE BOROUGH**



THE ITEMS BELOW ARE  
COMMUNITY LANDFILL

RECYCLED AT THE SECCRA

DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ◆ Auto Tires \$3.00 each                                      | ◆ Cell phones - Free           |
| ◆ Truck Tires (no rims) \$15.00 each                          | ◆ All other electronics - Free |
| ◆ Refrigerant appliances (SECCRA removes refrigerant) \$12.00 | ◆ Motor Oil - Free             |
| ◆ Other appliances \$5.00                                     | ◆ Antifreeze - Free            |
| ◆ Unchipped brush and limbs \$45.00 per ton                   | ◆ Automobile Batteries - Free  |
| ◆ Automobile Batteries Free                                   |                                |

## ***STORMWATER POLLUTION!***

**Our streams and rivers supply:**

- ♦ **Water for drinking**
- ♦ **Water for fishing**
- ♦ **Water for swimming**
- ♦ **Water for canoeing and boating**
- ♦ **Water for wildlife**

**Polluted stormwater runoff  
Is the greatest threat to clean water!!!**



### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION**

#### **GRASS CYCLE**

No need to chemically fertilize your lawn when you allow grass clippings to remain on the ground and compost naturally.

Bonus - No raking required!

#### **KEEP LITTER OFF THE DRIVEWAY, STREET AND, SIDEWALK**

Trash in creeks and rivers get there from someone throwing it on the ground. Rain carries it to the storm drains and waterways.

#### **CLEAN STREETS = CLEAN STREAMS**

#### **CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET**

Pet waste is not a good natural fertilizer but it is a great source of bacterial pollution when it gets washed into the storm drains and local waterways.



Illustration by Jeff Grader / property of Delta Education

Please keep your bushes and tree limbs trimmed so that they are not blocking traffic. If you have a sidewalk, please keep shrubbery and low branches cut back where people are walking.



**Let's keep our streets and sidewalks safe!**

#### **COOKING OILS, FATS & GREASE**

Please do not put any cooking oils, fats or grease down your sink/drain. This causes blockages in the Borough's sewer system and ends up costing the Borough money to have the sewer lines cleaned.

This is prohibited under Ordinance #178.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

#### **SWIMMING POOLS**

Summer is just around the corner and if you are going to fill a swimming pool that is greater than 1,000 gallons; you can get relief from sewer charges.

You need to notify the Borough not less than 5 business days in advance of filling your pool. After you have filled your pool; your water usage will be calculated and deducted from the sewer portion of your bill which will effect the next quarter.



**You need a permit for any pool over 2 feet deep.**

Call the Borough Office at 610-268-8501 if you have any questions.



**STREET LIGHTS  
STREET SIGNS**

Please call the Borough Office if you see a street light out or if you see a street sign missing, down, or in need of repair.



**CURFEW**

Under Ordinance #115, it is unlawful for anyone under the age of 18 years old to remain in or upon any public or private establishment in the Borough of Avondale between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian

**Clean Up After  
Your Dog**



**HIGH GRASS  
ORDINANCE #244**

Grass, weeds or any vegetation not edible or planted for ornamental purposes exceeding six (6) inches is prohibited in the Borough. In the case any person shall neglect, fail or refuse to comply with the ordinance, Borough Officials has the authority to cut the lawn at the cost to the owner with additional penalties.

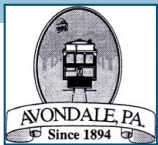
**RENT OR LEASE ANY UNITS IN YOUR DWELLING?**

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 to schedule 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 or on the Borough's website



**AVONDALE BOROUGH**

**110 POMEROY AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 247  
AVONDALE, PA 19311**

***SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER***