

SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



Spring Garden Directory

Township Administration
 717.848.2858
 340 Tri Hill Road, Suite A
www.springgardentwp.org

Business Hours:
 Mon-Thurs., 7:30 am - 4 pm
 Friday 7:30 am - 1 pm

General Inquiries Ext. 2

Planning and Zoning and Building Permits Ext. 3
Dawn Hason, Zoning Officer

Property Maintenance and Rental Registration Ext. 4
Code Enforcement

Public Works Ext. 6
Craig Ruhl, Superintendent

Administration Ext. 7
Luther Wilke, Jr., Finance Administrator
Marcy Krüm-Tinsley, Twp. Manager

Fire Department
Non-Emergency 717.718.2383

Township Police
 717.848.2858
 340 Tri Hill Road, Suite A
www.sgtpd.org

Business Hours: Mon-Thurs., 7:30 am-4 pm
 (closed Noon - 12:30 pm)
 Friday 7:30 am - 1 pm

Township Meeting Dates

Board of Commissioners, Workshop (as needed)	2 nd Wednesday	5:00pm
Board of Commissioners, Business Meeting	2 nd Wednesday	6:30pm
Planning Commission	1 st Tuesday	6:00pm
Zoning Hearing Board	3 rd Tuesday	6:00pm
Civil Service Commission	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday	4:00pm

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, are held in the Meeting Hall at the Spring Garden Township Municipal Building (340 Tri Hill Road, Suite A, York PA 17403)

Township Offices Closed

May 27, 2024

July 4, 2024

September 2, 2024

November 28 & 29, 2024

December 24 & 25, 2024

Reference Information

SGT Real Estate Tax Collector

York Co. Treasurer
 PO Box 2848, 28 E. Mkt. St., York
 717.771.9603

Trash/Recycling – PennWaste

717.767.4456
www.pennwaste.com

York Suburban School Tax Collector

York Suburban School District
www.yssd.org
 717.885.1205

York-Adams Tax Bureau

Earned Income, Mercantile Business Privilege, Local Services Tax
 717.845.1584

Sewer and Water Billing – York Water Company

717.845.3601
www.yorkwater.com



Electricity – Met-Ed

800.545.7741
www.firstenergycorp.com

Natural Gas – Columbia Gas

888.460.4332
www.columbiagas.com

U.S. Congressman 10th District

Scott Perry

State Representative 95th District

Hon. Carol Hill-Evans

U.S. Senator

Robert Casey Jr.

State Senator 28th District

Kristin Phillips-Hill

U.S. Senator

John Fetterman

District Court 19-2-05

Magisterial District Judge
 Jennifer, J. P. Clancy, Esq.

Be a Savvy Citizen!

Stay aware of special announcements (trash collection, brush drop-off, road closures, etc.) by signing up today for

Township alerts.



SPRING GARDEN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ward 1

David Detwiler
 Term Expires 2028

Ward 2

Daniel Rooney
 Term Expires 2026

Ward 3

Anne Grey
 Term Expires 2028

Ward 4

Andrew Herrold
 Term Expires 2026

Ward 5

Thomas Gwilt
 Term Expires 2028



ELECTION DAY 2024



Polls open from 7AM to 8PM

- **Primary Election: April 23, 2024**
- **General Election: November 5, 2024**

Polling location: visit the York County Voting and Election website:

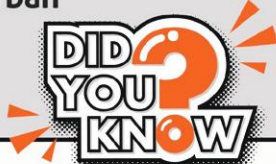
www.yorkcountypa.gov/526/Voter-Services

For helpful information on voting in Pennsylvania, go to www.Vote.PA.gov.

York County Voting and Elections:
717.771.9604



1800 Hollywood Drive
York, PA 17403
717-885-1210



- Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open. Register online at yssd.org/families/registration/
- Renovation & Construction Information can be found at yssd.org/renovation/
- You can join our email list and stay connected with York Suburban School District by completing an online form at yssd.org/stay-connected/.

Spring is in the air and that means yard clean-up.

Yard Waste Pickup in Spring Garden Township is the **Fourth Saturday, April - October**. Please follow the recycling guidelines below:



Penn Waste accepts unlimited amounts of recycling!

Acceptable Items



Want to know more about Recycling in Your Community?

Visit: <https://files.dep.state.pa.us/waste/Recycling/RecyclingPortalFiles/Booklet/RecyclingInYourCommunityPrintBooklet.pdf>

METAL:

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Steel food & beverage cans, aerosol cans, paint cans

GLASS:

- Clear, brown, blue, and green glass food & beverage containers

PLASTIC:

- #1 through #7 - *All materials must be thoroughly cleaned before placing them in your recycle container.*

- ✓ Remove caps/lids
- ✓ Rinse thoroughly to remove all contaminants
- ✓ It is OK to leave on labels and neck rings

PAPER, PAPERBOARD & CARDBOARD:

Recycle Any Size. Any Quantity.

Please break down boxes as flat as possible and put them out next to your recycle bin(s) on your pick-up day.

- All sizes of cardboard boxes
- Clean pizza boxes
- Food boxes (i.e. cereal & gelatin boxes)
- EMPTY paper towel and toilet paper rolls
- Paperboard packaging (i.e. tissue boxes)
- Office paper (any color)
- Shredded paper (in CLEAR plastic bags)
- Newspapers and inserts
- Magazines, catalogs, and brochures
- Envelopes & junk mail
- Paper bags
- Phone books & other soft cover books

- ✓ Remove all packaging (Styrofoam, peanuts, plastic bubble wrap, plastic liners, etc.)
- ✓ Flatten ALL boxes
- ✓ Bundle all cardboard that does not fit into the recycling bin
- ✓ Cover loose paper with heavier items to prevent it from blowing away
- ✓ If the weather forecast calls for high winds or wet weather, if possible, keep your paper recyclables until the next week. Wet paper products are difficult to process.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

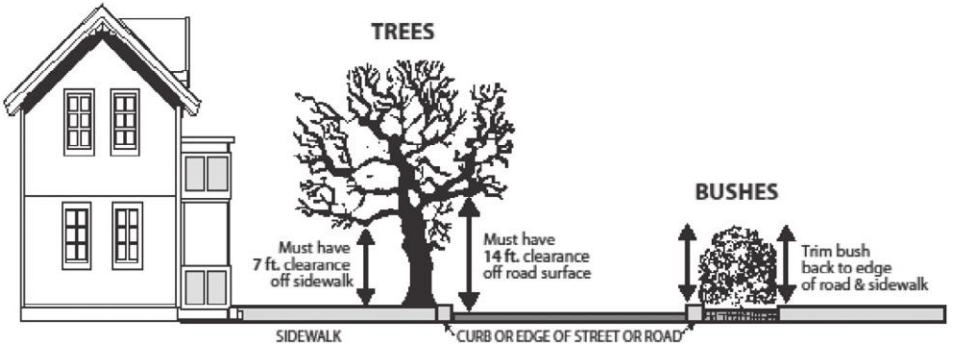
If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



PUBLIC WORKS

Property Maintenance-Tree Trimming

Snowplows, emergency vehicles, and the street sweeper need a clearance of a least 14 ft. from the road surface. The clearance for sidewalks is 7 ft. from the lowest branch. Bushes are not to extend past the curb or sidewalk. Those that are a sight hinderance for vehicles are to be cut down to 3 ft. in height.



Brush Collection 2024

Brush and sticks can be dropped off at 1799 Mount Rose Avenue the following days:

- **2nd Friday of the Month** (weather permitting)
November through March - 8am to noon
- **2nd Saturday of the Month** (weather permitting)
April through October - 8am to noon

Tree limbs are limited to 8 inches in diameter or less and cannot exceed 8 feet in length. Residents are asked to unload brush from their own vehicles and to limit the number of drop-offs to two truck or trailer loads. Brush Drop-Off cancellations will be sent via **Savvy Citizen...** sign up today for these notifications.

Street Sweeping

Though street sweeping occurs year-round, efforts ramp up April through December. Please review the signs posted along your street for the schedule.



Sewer Backups

Sewer Backup Preventions

Sanitary sewer line blockages are typically caused by roots, grease, and improper disposal of items. Tree roots can enter the sanitary sewer system at joints and cracks in the sewer service lines and mains. Grease can solidify in the sewer lines and restrict other waste from flowing through. The lines can be blocked by the following items: disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, and “flushable” wipes or cat litter. Property owners can do many things to prevent their sewer service from backing up. Remember, the very same things can help prevent backups in the Township sewer main as well.

Grease

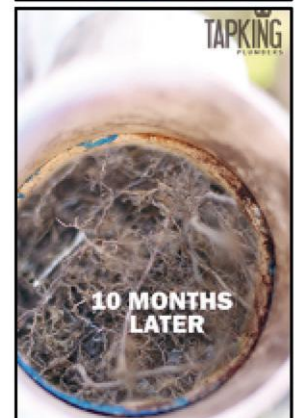
Cooking oil should be poured into a heat-resistant container and disposed of in the garbage after it cools, not down the drain. Some people assume that washing grease down the drain with hot water is satisfactory. The grease goes down the drain, cools off, and solidifies either in the drain, the property owner’s service, or in the sewer main. When this happens, the line eventually clogs.

Paper Products

Flushable wipes, paper towels, disposable diapers, and cat litter cause many problems in the property owner’s service and the Township main. They become lodged in portions of the service and main, causing sewer backups. These products should be disposed of in the garbage.

Sewer Root Control

The continual flow of nutrient-filled water found in sewer pipes attracts tree roots. Roots growing along pipes exert significant pressure on pipes. These roots may push into and around gasket connection points which may expand and break seals. Root infiltration can cause a blockage to the service resulting in sewage backup in your home and damage to your property. Temporary solutions include a plumber using an auger to cut tree roots and pouring/flushing root control product to dissolve the roots. The only permanent solution is to remove the tree and repair the section of sewer pipe that has been damaged from the roots.





Spring Garden Township residents can help reduce the discharge of pollutants to the streams and protect water quality by doing the following:

1. Never dump anything besides stormwater into a storm drain, inlet, swale, or stream. Dumping in these areas is an Illicit Discharge and is a violation of the Township Ordinance.
2. Report Illicit Discharges. If you observe anyone dumping anything into the MS4 system or notice a non-stormwater discharge entering the MS4 or a stream, immediately notify the Township at 717-848-2858.
3. Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. Pet waste should never be disposed of in storm drains, inlets, catch basins, or streams.
4. Wash vehicles in a way that wash water does not enter the MS4. Wash vehicles in lawn or gravel areas or take them to commercial car washes.
5. Recycle or properly dispose of hazardous materials including paints, used oil, and chemicals.
6. Pick up litter, debris, or garbage from yard, sidewalks, driveways, and other areas so that it is not washed into a storm drain.

To learn more, visit our website: <https://www.springgardentwp.org/>

RECYCLING and REFUSE

Residential Refuse and Recycling

Please visit PennWaste at <https://www.pennwaste.com/municipalities/spring-garden-township/> for information on collection schedule, curbside yard waste collection, bag limits, and the large item policy.



Recycling – PA Act 101 (businesses, industries, institutional, multi-family dwellings)

PA Act 101 was passed in 1988 in an attempt to lessen waste and intensify recycling participation. **All commercial, industrial, and institutional establishments** (such as schools, churches, retailers, offices, and non-profits), multi-family dwelling with five or more units, and community activities in Spring Garden Township **must recycle AND report the recycled tonnages** of the following annually

by January 15th for the previous reporting year: cardboard, high-grade office paper, aluminum cans, plastics, and glass. **No business establishment is exempt from recycling** and what recycling is generated in Spring Garden Township needs to be reported to the Township. For more information on Act 101 requirements, penalties for non-compliance, hauler verification, and recycling weight slips, visit: www.springgardentwp.org and click on Refuse/Recycling tab.



Yard Waste

Grass clippings and leaves can be used as garden and lawn mulch! York County Solid Waste Authority's website provides a list of local mulch processors as well as hours, rates, and directions to the York County Resource Recovery Center complex (www.ycswa.com/disposal-of-household-waste/yard-waste). Penn Waste Yard Waste Collection Guidelines: www.pennwaste.com/wp-content/uploads/Yard-Waste-Guidelines.pdf.

ZONING and CODE ENFORCEMENT

Construction Permit

It's the time of year for home improvements. Not sure if you need a permit? Please visit our website at

<https://www.springgardentwp.org/building-permits/> for more information and permitting instructions.

Permit applications are available at <https://www.springgardentwp.org/wp-content/uploads/Building-Permit-App-with-Site-Plan-2023June-1.pdf>.

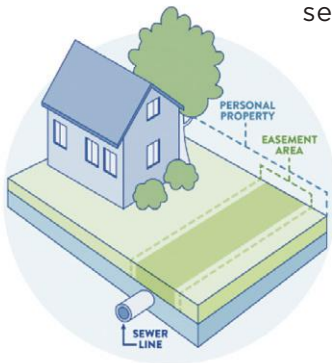


Planting and Construction in Easements

If there is a storm/sanitary sewer easement or right-of-way across your property, even if the sewer lines are below ground, you can't interfere with the allowed use, which could include repair or maintenance work the Township must do.

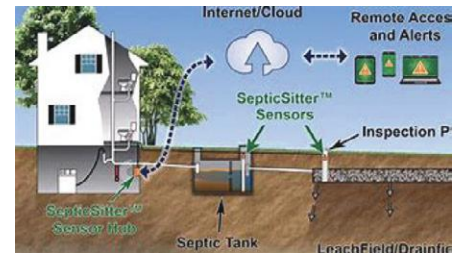
If you construct anything in the easement/right-of-way area, you might find the Township not only tearing down your structure, but also sending you a bill for the demolition. Such an outcome might seem extreme, but if the sewer line breaks and needs emergency repair, the Township would need to take immediate action to fix the problem.

To be safe, pull your deed out of your files and carefully review the language regarding the easement/right-of-way. It is possible that the easement/right-of-way specifically addresses the construction of improvements within the easement area. The easement/right-of-way might strictly prohibit construction, paving, and/or landscaping and plantings.



On-Lot Systems in Ward 3 & 4

On-lot systems in Ward 3 must be inspected/pumped by July 1, 2024 and Ward 4 by July 1, 2025. According to Ordinance §250-126, every three years owners are required to have their on-lot system inspected by a qualified pumper/hauler. Cesspools require an inspection by the Sewage Enforcement Officer every three years.



Rental

A rental property is any property occupied by anyone other than the deeded owner, whether they are related or not. Only three unrelated people are permitted per

unit. Rentals are inspected every two years. A Rental Registration and fees (\$200 per year per unit) are required for each rental unit and are due by January 31st of each year. Late fees are charged beginning February 1. Moving out of town and renting your property? Please make sure we have a local contact or Property Management company for emergencies and property maintenance issues.

Contemplating using your property as a short-term rental (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.)? The Township does not have any provisions for short-term rentals in our Ordinances. Please contact the Zoning Officer for more information.



Grass and weeds should be maintained at a length of 6" or lower. Be sure to keep trees and bushes trimmed so as not to interfere with sidewalks and streets/alleys.

Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board Summary September 2023 - February 2024

Land Development and Subdivision Plans:

The following plan was conditionally approved:

1. Subdivision Land Development Plan for 1742 Sixth Avenue to combine two parcels and building an addition.

Zoning Hearing Applications:

1. Bethany Evans Church at 1401 Mt. Rose Ave was granted a Variance to install a digital sign.
2. York College of Pennsylvania, York Country Day School at 1000 Indian Rock Dam Road was granted a variance for the alteration and replacement of an existing non-conformity.
3. WG & PG LLC at 650 North State Street was denied a variance to install a loading zone in front of the property.
4. RG Box Hill LLC at 1501 Copper Beech Drive filed an appeal to a Stop Work Order appealing the zoning officer's interpretation of Section 310-84, Permits, after the erection of a tent without a building permit. In addition, RG Box Hill LLC has filed an appeal to Stop Work Order dated September 12, 2023, for the zoning officer's interpretation of Section 310-6, for the operation of a wedding venue in the Residential Suburban Zone. Pursuant to the January 2, 2024, Order Remanding Case to the Spring Garden Township Zoning Hearing Board issued by the York County Court of Common Pleas. This case was heard before the Zoning Hearing Board on March 20, 2024; the appeal was granted.

Spring Garden Township Zoning Ordinance §310-14 prohibits the parking of recreational vehicles, utility and boat trailers, boats and trucks with two or more axels for more than three days in the area between the street line and the front wall of the principal building. If you would like to park one of these vehicles on your property paved parking behind the front wall of your property is required. Please contact the Zoning officer for more information.



Vehicles



All vehicles must be inspected and properly registered each year even if on private property. If registration or inspection is not current or the vehicle is inoperable, the vehicle must be removed from the property or stored in a completely enclosed facility. Vehicles may not be parked on grassy areas. Spring Garden Township Zoning Ordinance §310-14 requires that all driveways shall be paved with concrete, brick, paving blocks, or bituminous paving material.



Can I ride a motorized scooter, quad, ATV, motorized bicycle, go-cart, or snowmobile on the streets or anywhere else?

If it is motorized, the operator needs to have a license, registration, and insurance for the vehicle. The vehicle also must have proper equipment to be driven on the roads, such as turn signals, headlights, brake lights, a valid registration tag and safety inspection. Mini-bikes, go-carts, quads, trikes, golf carts, and scooters are not legal to ride at this time in Pennsylvania, unless you are on private property and have permission from the owner. If you do ride at an approved location, always wear a helmet and proper safety equipment. Violation of this or other parts of this section can result in traffic tickets to the operator as well as the owner, just as if you were operating a car or truck. The vehicle may also be towed at your expense.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

POLICE



Mission Statement

The mission of the Spring Garden Township Police Department is to enhance the quality of life of all people by working in partnership with the community to protect life and property through the delivery of professional law enforcement services while maintaining the highest level of integrity and assuring individual constitutional rights.



Final message from the Chief of Police, George Swartz

After much thought and reflection, I have made the decision to retire from the Spring Garden Township Police Department effective April 10, 2024. I am honored and extremely grateful for the opportunity given to me to serve the Spring Garden Community these many years as your Chief of Police.

I wish to thank the Board of Commissioners, Township Manager, members of the Spring Garden Township Police Department, and the Spring Garden Community for your confidence and support you have shown me these past 23 years.

During my law enforcement career spanning over 44 years, I have been given opportunities that I never dreamed for myself and will always cherish. Although this chapter of my career may be coming to an end, I look forward to pursuing future endeavors and spending time with my family.

Finally, while this is an emotional time for me, I leave having confidence and pride knowing that the future of the Township and safety of our community is in good hands. To the members of the Spring Garden Township Police Department, stay safe, and God Bless. Thank you!!!

FIRE

It is Spring!! Time to Change Those Batteries in Your Smoke Detectors!!!

If you have a sealed smoke detector with a 10-year battery test the detector by pressing the test button to activate. Check the dates on all your detectors. We recommend replacing all smoke and CO detectors every 10 years.

1. Hard wired smoke detectors should have a battery backup. Replace the battery to ensure operation in a power outage.
2. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors come in many styles and models. If you have any questions on what you need for your home contact York Area United Fire & Rescue.
3. We recommend at least one detector on each floor of your home. And prefer one in every bedroom. (Sleeping with your bedroom door closed)
4. You can install individual smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors or purchase combination detectors which are both smoke and Carbon Monoxide detecting.



If you are in need, have any questions on types of detectors or installation, please give us a call.

York Area United Fire & Rescue at 717-718-2383.

Or jump on our website click on How do I? Click on Get a smoke detector or Contact YAUFRR.



Headquarters:

50 Commons Drive, York PA 17402

Tele: 717.718.2383

www.yaufr.com

Cheif: Daniel J. Hoff

York Area United Fire and Rescue

Grantley Station 89-2, 918 Virginia Avenue, York PA 17103

Victory Station 89-4, 421 Wheaton Street, York PA 17103

<https://www.facebook.com/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue>

Test smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries 2x annually at the designated daylight savings times and replace if 10 years older.



SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP

340 Tri Hill Road
York, PA 17403

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 356
York, PA

Magisterial District Judge - Jennifer J.P. Clancy, Esq.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT MARIJUANA

Many cases on the criminal docket at District Court 19-2-05 involve a charge for possession of a small amount of marijuana (i.e., small bag of fresh marijuana, marijuana blunt). Surrounding states (MD, NY, NJ, DE and recently OH) have legalized such possession but in Pennsylvania this activity is illegal. Those charged with this ungraded misdemeanor are facing a fine of up to \$500, court costs, up to 30 days of confinement and potential legal fees. Pennsylvania law does allow a person with a valid medical marijuana card to possess marijuana, *but* only in certain specified forms.

There are consequences related to the illegal possession of a small amount of marijuana. First, in many instances, a defendant is staring down a second charge for use and/or possession of drug paraphernalia (i.e., rolling papers, grinders, etc.). This ungraded misdemeanor carries a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to 1 year of confinement. Second, those who use marijuana (with or without a medical marijuana card) cannot drive if the active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is detected in the blood. Nearly half of the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges filed at 19-2-05 are drug (not alcohol) related. While an individual can drive after consuming alcohol (up to .08 BAC), Pennsylvania law does not allow the presence of *any* THC in the system when behind the wheel. Finally, a charge for illegal possession of a small amount of marijuana appears on a defendant's criminal record.

As always, my intent with this column is to educate the citizenry of Spring Garden Township. Be smart about your lifestyle choices.

Jennifer J.P. Clancy, Esq.
Magisterial District Judge

District Court 19-2-05
1410 Sixth Avenue
York, PA 17403