

# NORTHAMPTON

*Township*



Winter 2015

## BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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### Northampton's Ranked Top 10 Safest Place in PA

Hello Everyone,

It's my great pleasure to announce that our community has recently been ranked as one of the top 10 safest places in the state! The rankings were compiled using 2010 U.S. Census data and the most recent FBI Uniform Crime report. For more information on the ranking, check our website.

Since it's a new year, this issue is your go-to source for updated contact information, meeting schedules and liaison responsibilities to keep you informed about the community.

Due to last year's devastating winter, this issue includes a greater focus on different articles detailing what to do during the winter season. These interesting articles will inform you on our new salt brine system and how to remove snow from your property. And don't forget to examine the back cover to register for our new Adopt-a-Hydrant program to help our Fire Department.

Also in this issue is an announcement of a new program focused on businesses – a great read on why Northampton is classified as a township of the second class, part two of a three-part series, and program offerings from different departments.

All the best,

*Barry Moore, Chairman*

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Barry Moore  
Chairman



Larry Weinstein  
Vice-Chairman



Eileen Silver  
Secretary



Dr. Kimberly Rose  
Treasurer



George F. Komelasky  
Member

### Administration Building Holiday Closing

The Northampton Township Administration Building will be closed on:  
Monday, February 16 in observance of President's Day.



**NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

55 Township Road, Richboro, PA 18954 • 215-357-6800 • Fax: 215-357-1251

[www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com)

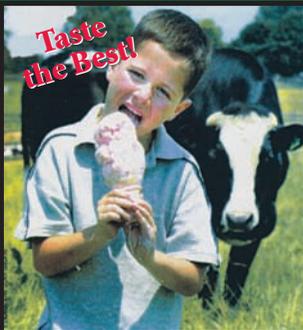
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or visit

[Rainbowacademypreschool.com](http://Rainbowacademypreschool.com)



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP



55 Township Road • Richboro, PA 18954  
215-357-6800 • Fax: 215-357-1251  
www.northamptontownship.com

Codes/Zoning/Permits:	215-355-3883	Public Works Department:	215-355-3433
Finance Department:	215-357-6800 x204	Police Department	<b>Emergency 911</b>
Fire Marshal:	215-357-6800 x210	Non-Emergency	215-357-8700
Manager's Office:	215-357-6800 x201	Library:	215-357-3050
Parks & Recreation:	215-357-6800 x249	Recreation Center:	215-357-5396
Planning Department:	215-357-6800 x206	Senior Center:	215-357-8199

## Board of Supervisors 2015 Liason Responsibilites

### **Barry Moore, *Chairman***

#### **Community Development and Planning**

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board
- Economic Development
- Building Code Board of Appeals
- Code Enforcement
- Open Space Preservation
- Planning and Zoning Administration

#### **Other Committees**

- Southwestern Bucks Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWBSWAC)
- PSATS Voting Delegate

### **Larry Weinstein, *Vice Chairman***

#### **Public Safety**

- Police Protection Services
- Fire Protection Services
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management

#### **Other Committees**

- Veterans Advisory Commission

### **Eileen Silver, *Secretary***

#### **Other Committees**

- Municipal Authority
- Historic Commission
- Free Library of Northampton Township
- Blight Property Review Committee

### **Dr. Kimberly Rose, *Treasurer***

#### **Community Services**

- Council Rock School District
- James E. Kinney Senior Center

### **George F. Komelasky, *Member***

#### **Internal Affairs**

- Administration
- Finance
- Personnel
- Pensions
- Insurance

#### **Parks and Recreation**

- Park Facilities
- Recreation Programs and Services

#### **Public Works and Facilities**

- Public Works Services
- Public Facilities

#### **Other Committees**

- Southwestern Bucks Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWBSWAC)

## 2015 Meeting Schedule

### Board of Supervisors

Public Meetings – 7:30 p.m. • Agenda Review Meetings – 6:30 p.m.

<p><b>Jan.</b> 28-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Feb.</b> 25-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Mar.</b> 25-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Apr.</b> 22-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>May</b> 27-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Jun.</b> 24-Wed-Public Meeting</p>	<p><b>Jul.</b> 22-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Aug.</b> 26-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Sept.</b> 30-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Oct.</b> 5-Tues-Budget Presentation (6 p.m.) 28-Wed-Public Meeting</p>	<p><b>Nov.</b> 10-Tues-Budget Workshop (6 p.m.) 18-Wed-Public Meeting</p> <p><b>Dec.</b> 16-Wed-Public Meeting</p>
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#### Planning Commission

Public Meetings - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
Agenda Review Meetings @ 7 p.m.

#### Parks & Recreation

Public Meetings - 1st Thursday @ 8 p.m.  
Agenda Review Meetings @ 7 p.m.

#### Zoning Hearing Board

2nd and 4th Monday @ 7 p.m.

**Library Board** 25 Upper Holland Road  
4th Thursday @ 7 p.m.

**Historical Commission** 25 Upper Holland Road  
3rd Thursday @ 7 p.m.

## Tax Collector Office



Bob Borkowski

Real estate tax bills for both Northampton Township and Bucks County will be mailed to residents on March 1. By law, these bills must be mailed to residents. If you do not receive your bill within two weeks after the mailed date, call the tax office for another mailing.

**Special note:** *If you have a mortgage, please forward your tax bill to your bank for payment.*

**Phone:** (215) 357-1343

**Email:**  
bobborkowski167@gmail.com

**Website:**  
<http://northamptontaxcollector.wordpress.com/>

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday-Thursday:  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Friday:  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Additional Hours:**

4th Wednesday  
(March - October)  
8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.



## Northampton Township Guide for Mandatory Commercial and Institutional Recycling



PA State Law and Local Ordinance require the recycling of the following materials:

- Aluminum Cans • Office Paper • Corrugated Cardboard • Yard Waste

All commercial businesses and institutional facilities are required to have a recycling program.

If you need assistance setting up a recycling program, please contact your waste hauler or property manager.

**A GOOD IDEA IS NOW THE LAW**

PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESSES ARE REQUIRED TO RECYCLE.

LEARN WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP YOUR BUSINESS IN COMPLIANCE.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS GUIDE FOR YOUR RECORDS.



## TRASH COLLECTION

- Trash, recyclables, and one bulk item are collected on the same day. Place trash at curb no later than 6 a.m. on the day of collection, but no earlier than 7 p.m. on the prior evening. Each household is limited to 12 bags or cans of trash per week.
- Use plastic or metal trash cans or plastic trash bags. All trash should be bagged. Please do not put out trash in paper bags, cardboard boxes, or containers smaller than 20 gallons.

### TRASH WILL NOT BE COLLECTED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

New Year's Day	Thur. 1-1-15	Memorial Day	Mon. 5-26-15
Independence Day	Fri. 7-3-15	Labor Day	Mon. 9-7-15
Thanksgiving	Thur. 11-26-15	Christmas	Fri. 12-25-15

## RECYCLING

- We do single stream recycling, which means all recyclables go into the same bin. This includes plastics stamped #1 - #7, aluminum cans, foil, tin cans, paper, cardboard, and glass. No plastic bags.

## YARD WASTE

Yard waste will be collected only in biodegradable bags. Make sure the bags do not weigh more than 50 pounds when full. Biodegradable yard waste bags can be purchased at the administration building for \$.40 a bag or \$20 for a bundle of 50.

- December 16 - March 31: An additional five bags or cans of yard waste are permitted.
- April 1 - December 15: Unlimited yard waste collected the day after your trash day.
- Tree branches and shrubbery must be no more than 36 inches long and less than 3 inches in diameter. They may be bundled then tied/taped, or placed into cans or biodegradable bags, as long as they do not extend over the top of the can/bag.

## Ordinance Corner

Our full Code of Ordinances can be found at <http://www.keystatepub.com/>.

### Chapter 15: Motor Vehicles and Traffic ~ Part 4: General Parking Regulations ~ §15-407. Fire Lanes Designated

*"The Fire Marshal shall specify and advise the owner(s) of said premises or person(s) in charge of possession of said premises as to the method of posting the designated area(s) either by approved signs, yellow paint striping and labeling or any combination thereof as deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal. Said posting devices shall be maintained in a condition which clearly notifies the motorists of the area of prohibition."*

This ordinance establishes fire lane designations in the Township. Although it may be tempting to park momentarily in a fire lane for convenience of running in and out of a business, these lanes are very important to keep clear. Fire lanes accommodate large fire trucks and other apparatuses and provide clear space for egress from a burning building.



### TOWNSHIP TIDBIT:

The rate of real estate taxes for general purposes is limited for second class townships to 14 mills.  
Our current millage for general purposes is 3.9845 mills.

# Administration

## FIRST CLASS AND SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIPS

**Note:** This is the second part of a three-part series detailing aspects of the Township's organizational structure. There is information used in this article from a Pennsylvania Township News Magazine article titled "Pennsylvania Municipalities: In a Class by Themselves."

Northampton Township is designated as a township of the second class. We get the question sometimes: "Does that mean we deliver second class service?" Absolutely not. Read more to find out the real answer to the differences between first class and second class townships.

### BRIEF HISTORY

The first law classifying townships was enacted in 1899. All townships became townships of the second class, except those certified to have a population density of 300 persons or more per square mile. About 10 townships around Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were certified as first class townships in 1900 and began to operate under the new form in 1901. The 1917 Township Law provided for both first and second class townships. Separate codes for first class townships were enacted in 1931 and for second class townships in 1933.

The Second Class Townships were laid out by action of the local justices of the peace sitting as the county court of quarter sessions, subdividing the county for purposes of road maintenance, administering poor relief, conducting elections and collecting taxes. In 1803, the General Assembly regularized this process in a statute authorizing local courts to create townships within each county. Townships were also created by special act of the General Assembly until this practice was prohibited by the Constitution of 1874. During the colonial period and the early republic, most township officers were appointed by county officials or the county court. The first general township law was enacted in 1834. Officers of townships in the nineteenth century included assessors, three supervisors, a treasurer, a town clerk, three auditors and a constable. The assessing function gradually migrated to the county level, while collection of real estate taxes became fixed at the township level. Until 1912, property owners could discharge their township tax liability by working on the roads personally.

The Township Code was reenacted in 1947 and again in 1995, and is amended at nearly every session of the General Assembly. First class townships received important protection against annexation of territory by adjoining municipalities through the requirement of approval of any annexation by a referendum vote of the entire township in 1937. Similar protection was long sought by second class townships, but was not finally achieved until after the 1968 amendments to the state constitution. New townships were created by the division of existing townships until 1931. Since that time, the only method of forming a new township has been through the abandonment of a borough charter.

With the rapid urbanization of Pennsylvania between the end of the Civil War and World War I, townships were eclipsed as both economic and political activity became concentrated in rapidly growing cities and boroughs. With the widespread use of the automobile in the 1920s, both population and economic activity began dispersing out of the old urban centers, with the trend accelerating since the end of World War II.

Townships again enjoyed a growing proportion of the state's population and wealth. Township government has emerged as an equal to other municipal classifications. This was recognized in the 1968 constitutional amendments when they were included within the definition of municipality. In recent years, powers of township governments have been expanded to equal those of other classifications, and all classifications are now included in new uniform laws defining the powers and responsibilities of municipal officials.

**Next Issue:** In our last issue of this municipal series, we will examine the Township's Council-Manager form of government.





## HIGHLIGHTING OUR HEROS

Officer Richard Gensler is a graduate of Council Rock High School South. He graduated from West Chester University 2010 - Magna Cum Laude, and he was one of our college interns in 2010. Officer Gensler is a graduate of the Montgomery County Police Training Academy and was previously employed as a Warminster Township Police Officer for a year and a half before joining the Northampton Township Police Department.

## CHIEF CLARK TIPS

### Section 3720 Snow and Ice dislodged or falling from moving vehicle.

When snow or ice is dislodged or falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious bodily injury, the operator of the vehicle from which the snow or ice is dislodged or falls shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each offense.



**Chief's Summary:** Clean snow or ice of your vehicle before you drive it.



### Section 4302 (a)(3) Periods for required lighted lamps.

Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermitted use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture, including rain, snow, sleet, or mist.

**Chief's Summary:** If the windshield is wet, then your head lights must be on.

### Section 4524 (a) Windshield obstructions and wipers.

Obstruction on front windshield. No person shall drive any motor vehicle with any ice or snow on the front windshield which materially obstructs, obscures or impairs the driver's clear view of the highway or any intersecting highway.

**Chief's Summary:** Clear your windows of snow before you venture out onto the highway.





# BEHIND THE BIZ!



Have you heard about our new video program launching in February? *Behind the Biz!* is a series of videos featuring a variety of Northampton Township businesses. The Township leads viewers on a tour of local businesses to get an inside look at how they work. One business is featured every month with videos shown on our municipal channel (Comcast - Ch. 22 and Verizon - Ch. 24) and YouTube channel.



## WANT TO SEE YOUR BUSINESS ON BEHIND THE BIZ!?

Would you like to see your business featured on our cable channel and YouTube channel? It is a great way to show the community what your company offers and how it contributes to the local economy, and there is no cost to participate in the program. For more information, contact Jamie Gwynn 215-357-6800 ext. 206 or email at [jgwynn@nhtwp.org](mailto:jgwynn@nhtwp.org).



## SCHEDULE OF EPISODES

Filming for Behind the Biz! will begin in January and the first video debuting February 4.

## Building & Codes

The devastation and destruction of Superstorm Sandy in 2012 continues to linger in our minds, particularly during the fall and winter months. Consequently, in an effort to better protect our homes and our families, generators have become a popular addition to many households.

It is very important to be fully-informed before purchasing a generator. Below are tips from the Building and Codes Department to help guide you in the process:

- Determine how much power and what type of generator you will need. Do you want a standby or portable generator? It may be useful to consult with a professional for advice.
- Evaluate your existing electric and/or gas service(s). An electric service or gas meter upgrade may be necessary. Contact PECO (215-956-3270) for additional information.
- Hire an experienced licensed contractor to perform the work.

- Secure a proper construction permit from the Township before installation. An electrical permit is required for all generators; a mechanical permit is required for natural gas-fueled generators. Refer to the following link for permit applications and gas generator requirements: <http://www.northamptontownship.com/departments/building-codes/documents-forms.aspx>.
- Obtain final inspection approvals from an electrical inspection agency and from the Township before using your generator.
- Feel free to contact the Building and Codes Department at 215-355-3883 with questions. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



## TOWNSHIP TIDBIT:



Did you know there are four different kinds of roads in the Township: state maintained roads, township roads, public-dedicated roads – for rights-of-way access, and private roads.

# SUMMER CAMP

## PARKS AND RECREATION 2015 CAMPS

### LET YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY BEGIN THIS SUMMER

**New Names • More Included in the Experience • Same Exceptional Camps**



You may be sitting by the warm fire, sipping cocoa and watching the snowflakes fall as you read this, but summer is just right around the corner and the department is already busy planning our next summer adventure.

We changed our camp names, but not the quality! Words like "With Extended Hours" are now gone from our titles. We feel that camp is a summer journey through childhood, so our names reflect the gradual climb towards the Summit, which coincidentally is our very last camp for ninth graders.

**THE JOURNEY BEGINS** for 3 to 5 year olds, at **LITTLE DISCOVERER'S CAMP** (formally "Camp for Me"). Little Discoverer's is camp in a preschool setting with weekly themes centered on the interests of the age. Camp is offered for 5 or 6 weeks and 3 or 5 day options at either Churchville or Hillcrest Elementary Schools from 9 a.m. to noon.



**WHERE THE JOURNEY LEADS NEXT IS UP TO YOU!** Children who have completed kindergarten have a variety of options depending on how much camp your child desires or parents' busy schedules. Want to Explore? At Camp Explore, (formally Playground Program) participants enjoy arts and crafts, sports, 3 trips, Camp Carnival Day and so much more from 9 a.m. to noon at either Hillcrest or Churchville Elementary Schools. A perfect option for stay at home parents looking for something organized for the kids to do, but still want freedom in the afternoons!



**LOOKING FOR A LITTLE MORE?** Send your child to camp at Richboro Elementary for an expedition! Camp Expedition offers participants camp from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Campers enjoy a longer day, 3 days of swimming each week, 4 trips, Camp Carnival Day and more! Maybe your child wants a full day adventure? Camp Adventure (formally Day Camp with Extended Hours) offers working parents peace of mind for full 8 weeks from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Children will swim every day, play sports, have arts and crafts, join camp clubs two times a week and so much more! Five trips are included and more trips are offered at an additional fee. Lunch is also included three times per week.

After your child has finished exploring or going on an expedition or adventure, **IT IS ON TO THE QUEST!** Quest is for children entering 7th and 8th grade and is offered in 5 or 6 week options, full day or partial day. (Hours vary on trip days.) Quest includes a variety of sports and team building activities and lots of **TRIPS – ALL** included in the fee.



When our campers have completed the Quest, **THEY HAVE REACHED THE SUMMIT** of their journey. Summit has Counselor-in-Training or a Just Trips option – the hours vary according to the trip and training schedule. CIT's must apply to be accepted into the program and will join the "Just Trip" campers on all 15 trips. It is the ultimate camp experience!



**Register for Camp today and begin your journey!**  
The Summer Staff will take care of your child every step of the way – don't miss it!

*\*For full camp descriptions and 2015 pricing visit [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com). Questions? Contact Jennifer Fean, Program Manager [jcfean@nhtwp.org](mailto:jcfean@nhtwp.org) or call 215-357-5396 X12.*

# Parks & Recreation



## PRESCHOOL POTPOURRI PROGRAM

Our 'Preschool Potpourri' Program is offered throughout the school year at the Recreation Center, 345 Newtown-Richboro Road, for children ages 3 and 4, as well as for children who miss the kindergarten cutoff date.

K. Fullerton of Holland writes, "Our family is very happy with the Preschool Potpourri Program. The classroom experience is fantastic, but more than anything, we are grateful for the sense of community and genuine caring exhibited by everyone who works there. This is my second child attending the program. Both my husband and I agree that you can't beat the flexibility, warmth, and quality of the program, as well as the affordability of Northampton Township. I would definitely recommend Preschool Potpourri to anyone looking for an outstanding preschool experience."

Your child will enjoy a combination of free time exploration and organized activities. Hands-on experiences introduce and reinforce recognition of numbers, letters, shapes, colors and self-awareness at an age appropriate level.

Registration is currently being accepted for the upcoming 2015-16 school year. Online registration is not available for this program. To schedule an appointment to visit the preschool, or if you have any questions please call the Recreation Center at 215-357-5396.



## NEW TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS



Does technology has you baffled? Did you receive an iPad as a holiday gift and not quite sure how to use it? Have you heard someone say put it on the "Cloud?" Have Outlook but not sure how to use it? Are you curious how to use social media with your new computer?

Look no further! We are offering "New Technology" one day workshops conducted at the Free Library of Northampton Township.

Come and learn the basics of the IPad and beyond: what is the "Cloud" and why use it and what are "web apps"? Learn how to create an email account, new email messages, contact lists and much more. Learn how to use Facebook and LinkedIn.

<b>Facebook for Business</b>	Monday, January 26	6:45 – 8:45 p.m.	Class # 1666
<b>LinkedIn</b>	Monday, February 23	6:45 – 8:45 p.m.	Class # 1667
<b>Ipad Basics and Beyond</b>	Wednesday, February 4	6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Class # 1670
<b>Ipad Basics</b>	Saturday, March 14	11:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Class # 1669
<b>The Cloud</b>	Thursday, February 26	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Class # 1671
<b>Intro to Outlook</b>	Monday, February 9	6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Class # 1672

Residents who register at least one week prior to class receive a special price of \$20 per workshop.

Register for one of these classes and get up to speed with technology

For more information and to register call 215-357-6800 or go online at [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com)

## 2014 - 2015 DISCOUNT SKI TICKETS NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

Purchase tickets only at the Recreation Office  
located in the Administration Building  
55 Township Rd., Richboro  
For further info. Call: 215-357-6800 x 249



BEAR CREEK	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Weekday (open to close)	\$ 48.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 16.00
Weekend (not valid on Holidays)	\$ 63.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 5.00
Night (4-10PM)	\$ 35.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 11.00

BIG BOULDER/JACK FROST	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Adult Weekday (open to close - 19+ Yrs)	\$ 46.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 8.00
Adult Weekend (open to close - 19+ Yrs)	\$ 53.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 9.00
Adult Holiday (open to close - 19+ Yrs)	\$ 55.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 6.00
Youth (5-18) Weekday (open to clise)	\$ 35.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 2.00
Youth (5-8) Weekend (open to close)	\$ 43.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 8.00
Youth (5-18) Holiday (open to close)	\$ 45.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00
Youth (5-18) Holiday (open to close)	\$ 30-34.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 3-7.00

BLUE MOUNTAIN	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Weekday (open to close)	\$ 55.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 7.00
Weekend (not valid on Holidays)	\$ 65.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00
Night (any night)	\$ 35.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00

CAMELBACK	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Midweek (open to close)	\$ 53.00	\$ 46.00	\$ 7.00
Weekend/Holiday (day or twilight)	\$ 63-65.00	\$ 56.00	\$ 7-9.00

ELK MOUNTAIN	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Midweek (open to close)	\$ 53.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 4.00
Weekend/Holiday (day or twilight)	\$ 65.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00

MONTAGE MOUNTAIN	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Adult Weekday (open to close - 19+ Yrs)	\$ 50.00	\$ 39.00	\$ 11.00
Adult Weekend (open to close - 19+ Yrs)	\$ 59.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 10.00
Youth (6-18) Weekday	\$ 35.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 8.00
Youth (6-8) Weekend (open to close)	\$ 45.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 8.00
3 HR Snowtubing (Fri-Sun or Holiday)	\$ 20.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 3.00

SHAWNEE MOUNTAIN*	GATE PRICE	DISCOUNTED PRICE	SAVINGS
Coupon will provide \$5 - \$10 discount depending on ticket type.			
Shawnee Mountain coupons are available at the Parks and Recreation Office and Recreation Center. These coupons have no monetary value and must be taken to the Shawnee Mnt. ticket window to purchase tickets at the discounted price.			

# SALT BRINE FOR WINTER SERVICES

by Robert M. Peda, P.E., Navarro & Wright Consulting Engineers, Inc.

State and local governments across America continue to face shrinking budgets and rising prices along with the need to provide higher levels of service as they battle dangerous winter road conditions. Traditionally, these service providers have used plowing combined with materials, such as rock salt, anti-skid, and other abrasives, to clear the roadways and provide traction during winter storms.

Many states and industries alike have performed research on the use of a wide variety of chemicals and materials to achieve improved deicing results. The most commonly used chemical

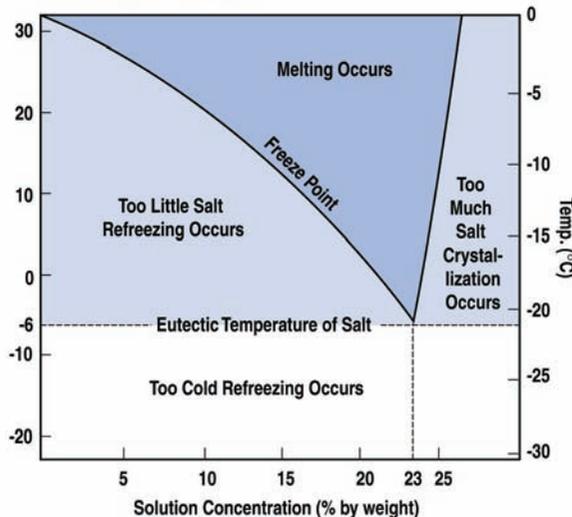
across the Snowbelt states is rock salt. This is primarily due to its availability, melting ability, cost, and ease of storage and handling. Rock salt has many advantages as an effective winter material in both the solid form and as a liquid brine.

Over the past 20 years, there has been growing acceptance

of using salt brine for prewetting solid materials, deicing accumulated snow and ice, and providing anti-icing treatments before a winter storm begins. For these purposes, rock salt is blended with water to achieve a 23.3 percent brine solution. In other words, the brine is blended at a rate of 2.33 pounds of salt per gallon of water. The brine solution is easily manufactured using commercially available brine-making systems. These systems, which vary in size, cost, and capacity, economically produce salt brine when blended by trained road crews. Once processed, salt brine can be transferred to storage tanks or pumped into a tank-mounted truck equipped to perform antiicing or deicing operations.

The same rock salt that is used for road applications can be processed into brine; as an option, solar salt can also be used. The advantage of using solar salt is that it is 100 percent pure, whereby rock salt specifications require a minimum 95 percent purity. This means that up to 5 percent mineral residue from the rock salt will remain settled at the bottom of the brine maker. This mineral residue must be periodically removed from the brine maker so that it continues processing salt brine.

Phase Diagram for Salt



## Prewetting

The most common use of salt brine entails prewetting rock salt as it is spread onto snow-covered roadways. Prewetting is the addition of a liquid chemical to winter materials prior to spreading the materials onto the road surface. The benefits of prewetting include the following: less scatter and loss of salt from the road surface due to bounce; faster and more effective melting capacity for the salt; and reduced amounts of salt used, resulting in lower costs and less impact on the environment due to chloride runoff.

Typically, 20 to 30 percent of dry rock

salt bounces off the road surface before it begins to melt snow and ice. Prewetting makes the salt crystals stick to the pavement, thus reducing scatter and providing a more uniform application with less waste. Since rock salt is a solid chemical, it needs to accumulate moisture to form a brine solution before it begins to melt snow and ice. By providing that "prewet" jumpstart, the salt begins to melt immediately due to more brine being present.

Other advantages for using salt combined with prewetting include decreased manpower costs since the time to control snow and ice back to dry pavement conditions is reduced. A second advantage would be increased driving speeds because more salt sticks to the road. Finally, using prewetted salt alone greatly reduces cleanup costs of residual anti-skid materials in the spring. All of these factors relate to a more efficient operation, a higher level of safety for the motorist, and a more environmental friendly

approach to providing winter services in Pennsylvania.

Several options exist for prewetting salt either by the load or directly at the spinner. Dump trucks or V-boxes can be retro-fitted with on-board storage tanks, which are typically mounted on the tailgate or in saddle tanks fitted between the truck sides and the V-box. For prewetting purposes, the tanks should be sized to prewet the entire load of rock salt. Typically, the on-board tanks hold approximately 120 to 180 gallons of salt brine.

The brine is then metered to prewet the salt at the spinner as the



Through use of a spray bar, salt can be wetted after a load is on a truck



Brine maker

**Prewetting the rock salt makes the salt crystals stick to the pavement, thus reducing scatter and providing a more uniform application with less waste.**

operator is spreading. If on-board prewet equipment is not available, the brine can be applied to the loader bucket as the truck is loaded or to the entire load after it is on the truck. Wetting the load can be done by a hose or a spray bar. For an effective prewetting operation, the amount of brine needed varies between 6 to 12 gallons per ton of dry salt.

Pennsylvania, where most of our winter storms occur at or above 20° F, is a good match for the effective temperature range for rock salt and salt brine. Although rock salt can melt snow and ice down to -6° F, more material is required when the temperatures drop below 20° F. Refer to the "Phase Diagram for Salt" on the previous page as a guide for the concentration of salt in the brine solution.

Basically, once the salt brine is diluted to less than 23.3 percent, it has a declining effect with the drop in temperature. More has to be applied to achieve the same effect. Although salt brine can be stored in tanks over the summer months, it should be recirculated on a regular schedule.

### Anti-icing

Another use of salt brine to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of winter services is to treat the roadway with an application before a storm begins. From a conventional perspective, we tend to react to the storm with plowing and the addition of chemicals and abrasives after the storm arrives - a reactive approach called deicing.



*Anti-icing tank*

Anti-icing is the process of applying a liquid chemical to the roadway surface before precipitation begins to prevent the formation

or development of bonded snow and ice to the pavement surface. This proactive approach can be performed when precipitation is expected to begin in the next 2 to 48 hours. The effectiveness or desirable results are dependent upon applying the right amount at the right time and under the right weather conditions. Research has shown that timely applications of anti-icing brine can cut the cost of maintaining a safe road surface by up to 90 percent.

As shown on the Phase Diagram, salt brine is only effective at certain concentration rates when compared to the ambient air temperature. As the brine becomes diluted, it is more likely that the pavement surface will refreeze. For this reason, careful

consideration must be given to the approaching weather conditions.

Anti-icing with salt brine is most effective when the air temperature is 25° F and higher. Salt brine may be applied as low as 150 F as long as air temperatures are predicted to rise rapidly. Avoid anti-icing below 150 F because the first snow can cause bonding to the pavement surface.

Another element to take into consideration is whether the pavement is wet or dry; if the pavement is dry under these temperature conditions, anti-icing will be effective; however, if the pavement is wet, the brine will become diluted rapidly and a refreeze is likely. Do not anti-ice if the pavement is wet.



*Dump truck retrofitted with brine tank*

For an effective anti-icing application, the rate of brine application should be between 45 and 64 gallons per lane mile. Truck speed should be limited to 40 to 50 miles per hour. Streamer or pencil nozzles can be used on the spray bar.

The many advantages to using anti-icing include that the road surface returns to normal much quicker after the storm, making it easier for snow fighters to maintain a safe roadway as the storm progresses. At the recommended application rates, the brine sticks to the road surface where it is needed, which provides the initial melting action. Once melting has started, additional applications of rock salt will activate more quickly with the need for less material overall.

If the storm is delayed, the salt residue remains on the road surface and will be present when the storm does arrive. Since the time of application is before the storm arrival, pretreatments can be performed during normal shifts rather than as emergency operations.

Increased efficiency results in less manpower and material consumption, which result in lower costs and less impact on the environment from excessive use of chlorides and abrasives.

### Reference

The Salt Institute provides significant information on safe and sustainable snow fighting in its Snowfighter's Handbook. The handbook features guidance on a wide range of snow-fighting practices, including training guidelines, materials, equipment, best practices, planning, and operations.

The handbook is available online at [saltinstitute.org](http://saltinstitute.org).



# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SNOW REMOVAL



A record-breaking winter last year has reminded us all of the importance of effective snow removal in our town. Every winter storm, our crews work around the clock to clear the snow and ice. The Township first plows major streets for emergency vehicle passage as the highest priority. After that, clearing side streets is the next priority. Once all the streets are passable, then crews work on cleaning snow from intersections and parking spaces.

The Township will plow "curb to curb" if there are no cars parked on the street, but we are not always able to return to clear on-street parking spots when cars are parked in them during storms. If you are parked on the street during a storm, you should expect that you will be plowed-in, and have to clear the area around your car yourself.

We know that residents hate the "windrows" (those long piles of snow on each side of the road) that plows leave behind, and that often bury freshly shoveled sidewalks and driveway aprons. We receive a lot of calls from angry folks that a plow has "pushed the snow back in their driveway". Unfortunately, the reality is that these "windrows" are an unavoidable part of plowing. You can reduce the amount of snow that ends up in a windrow in front of your drive or on your walk by doing certain things:

- Do not push snow from your walk, drive or parking area out into the street as it will only be pushed back in when the plow passes (and it is unlawful to do so and you could be fined)
- When you clear snow, also clear the snow from the road shoulder about 15' feet "upstream" of plow traffic direction (the direction that the plows comes from) On a standard two-way street this would be the left side of your driveway as you face the street. This way, when the plow passes by, less snow will be pushed back into your driveway. The smartest thing to do is not to shovel out the end of your driveway until the road is plowed. Otherwise your driveway will be plowed in again.

**Please be patient and courteous to crews.** They are working long hours doing a difficult job with the goal of getting you out and about as soon as practical.

## Tips for successful sidewalk clearing:

- Clear all your sidewalks, the full width of the sidewalk, down to the bare pavement.
- After the sidewalk is cleared, sprinkling a little sand can help keep the sidewalk from becoming slippery as night falls and temperature drop.
- Pile the snow you clear in your yard as it's against the law to shovel snow into the streets and alleys.
- If you have a corner property, clear curb cuts at corners and crosswalks to the street gutter to create a safe passageway.
- Don't wait to clear the snow. The longer you wait the harder it becomes to move it because it melts and re-freezes in an ice cover.
- If you will be away on vacation or health issues prevent you from clearing your sidewalk, make arrangements for help before the snowfall season.
- Business owners should clear the sidewalk and attempt to provide a walkway from the street to allow customers using street parking to get safely to the sidewalk without climbing over snow banks.
- Be a good neighbor.



# Free Library of Northampton Township

215-357-3050

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



## Children's Programs: Winter and Early Spring

### Dog Days at the Library with Nor'wester Readers

The first Saturday of each month from February - May - 2/7/15, 3/7/15, 4/4/15, 5/2/15 • 11 AM



The Nor'wester Readers will be bringing their tail wagging therapy dogs to the library. Pick out a book, take a seat and

read to these wonderful dogs.

For kids in preschool - 6th grade.

No registration necessary, just drop in!

### Toddler Playgroup

Meets the 2nd Friday of the month from December- May 2/13/15, 3/13/15, 4/10/15, 5/8/15 11 AM

Come and play with our toddler toys! Meet new friends and enjoy some social time.

This is designed for you and your toddler ages 2 - 3 1/2 to play together.

No registration necessary, just drop in!

### Groovy Pete the Cat Party!

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7 PM

Let's get groovin with Pete the Cat! We'll share some Pete stories, make some crafts, play some games and have some treats!

For children in preschool-2nd grade.

Registration begins January 28.

### Lego Club

4th Saturday of the month. 2/28/2015, 3/28/2015, 4/25/2015, 5/23/2015 •

Noon

Come build with us! We provide the Lego's, you provide the imagination. Fun for the entire family.

No registration necessary, just drop in.



### Toddler Story Time

Wednesdays, February 11-March 4, 2015 at 10:30 AM

Ages 2- 3 1/2

Join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

Registration begins January 14, 2015

### On My Own Preschool Story Time

Mondays March 2 – March 23 at 2:30 PM or Fridays March 6 – March 27 at 10:30 AM



This story time is designed to allow the preschooler to be on their own while a parent is close by. Join us for stories, music and crafts! For ages 3 1/2 - 5.

Registration begins February 10.

### Leprechauns in the Library!

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 6 PM

Oh those silly leprechauns- They are running loose in the library! Find them all to receive a prize. Is there really a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?

For children in kindergarten - 5th grade.

Registration begins February 17.

### Baby Story Time

Wednesdays, March 18-April 8, 2015 at 10:30 AM

Ages 6-23 months

A lap-sit program with simple stories, finger plays, rhymes, and songs. This program is a great way to introduce children to books and meet other parents.

Registration begins February 18, 2015

### On My Own Preschool Story Time

Mondays April 13 – May 4 at 2:30 PM or Fridays April 17 – May 8 at 10:30 PM

This story time is designed to allow the preschooler to be on their own while a parent is close by.

Join us for stories, music and crafts!

For ages 3 1/2 - 5.

Registration begins March 24.

### Toddler Story Time

Wednesdays, April 22-May 13, 2015 at 10:30 AM

Ages 2- 3 1/2

Join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

Registration begins March 25, 2015

### Summer Days Starry Nights Evening StoryTime

Thursday May 20 at 7 PM

Join us for stories, crafts and light refreshments.

For kids in preschool – 2nd grade

Registration begins

April 30.



## Tech Programs

### Tech Buddies at the Library

Do you have an e-reader and want to access the Library's e-book collection, but don't know where to start? Have you just gotten a mobile device but now need an app? Call 215-357-3050 or visit the Reference Desk to make an appointment with one of our tech savvy teen volunteers today. These teens are the gadget gurus and want to share their knowledge.

### New Features

We have a number of new features as a value added to your library card. Hoopla is the newest edition to the library's digital family--stream movies, TV Shows, music and audiobooks. We also have Freegal Movies, which is another movie streaming service offered at the Library. With Freegal, you can download five free songs per week. And coming in February: 24 hours of streaming music! Ask at the reference desk for details for all of these free services.

### Friends of the Free Library of Northampton Township

Every second Saturday and every third Thursday (March through November)

There will be a program brought to you by the group. Upcoming program ideas include seminars on financial exploitation, Fred Miller, American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, Rosie the Riveter and much more.

## James E. Kinney Senior Center

The Northampton Township James E. Kinney Senior Center held their annual Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 9. This event was a fun way for seniors to get out and celebrate the season! The theme was an "Ugly Sweater Party" and many came dressed in their most festive, comical, cutest and yes...ugliest sweaters! Prizes were awarded for each of the categories.

In addition to the delicious buffet, the members were treated to a wonderful program of holiday sing-a-long songs lead by their own newly formed choral group. They also enjoyed a visit from the one and only jolly white-bearded fellow himself.



*The Senior Center Choral Group sings for the audience at the Holiday Luncheon.*



*Sheila, the Center's Director, right, helps guide Santa as he rounds at the Senior Center Holiday Luncheon.*

The holiday party is just one of the many events the Senior Center has to offer. If also host an annual St. Patrick's Day dinner, Spring and fall vendor fair, a community basket bingo event, along with a variety of daily activities and programs. Why not hop on the bus and join the group for a day trip to the casino or area dinner theater? Anyone 18 years of age or older are welcome! Reservations are required for all trips.

The Senior Center always welcomes new members. For a membership fee of \$20 per year, anyone age 55 or better can be a part of the "best bargain in town." For more information stop by the center for a tour or call (215) 357-8199.

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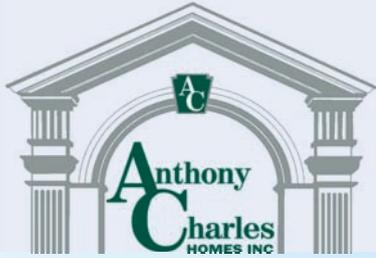
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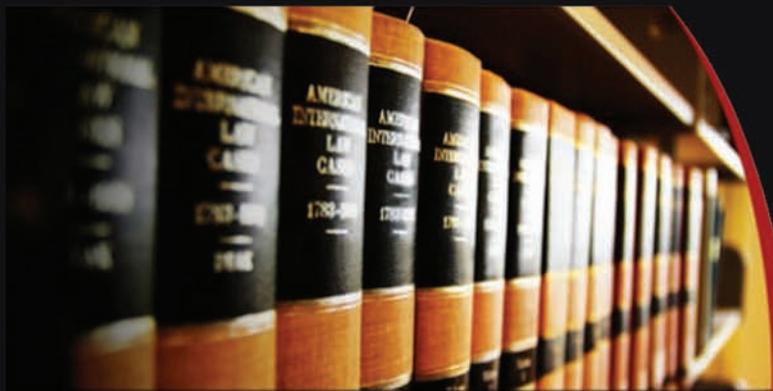
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