



Building a better community for you!

Township of Cumru  
1775 Welsh Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540

Township Offices  
Monday–Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Except Holidays  
Phone: 610-777-1343  
Fax: 610-796-0850  
CumruTownship.org

Board of Commissioners  
Meet Third & Fifth Tuesday  
of each month at 7 p.m.

President  
Tony J. Sacco

Vice President  
Edward L. Gottschall

Treasurer  
Ruth O’Leary

Members  
Ruth O’Leary  
Sheri Hoover  
Lorri Swan

Solicitor  
Michael A. Setley, Esq.

Engineer  
Great Valley  
Consultants, Inc.

**FALL 2015**

## LIFESAVING AWARD

Four Cumru Police Officers received the Police Departments Life-saving Award during the September 15, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting at the Cumru Municipal Complex. Sergeant Pinkasavage, Officer Kolk, Officer Ortiz, and Officer Wittig were given this award in recognition of their heroic actions during an apartment fire in the Township during the night of August 5, 2015. The officers were on scene within minutes of the call that a unit at Shillington Commons Apartment complex was on fire. While fire apparatus was in route the officers quickly cleared the unit, which was rapidly filling with smoke. They evacuated 12 units, that were home to 35 residents and their pets. Thanks to their efforts firefighters were able to immediately begin fighting the fire, which took roughly an hour to control.



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# TOWNSHIP OF CUMRU

## MEETING SCHEDULES

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meetings held 3rd Tuesday of each month and the 5th Tuesday, when applicable, at 7:00 pm.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Township Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Except: September (2nd Monday). The Township Secretary is available to answer questions about the application for plan review and plan review fees; call (610) 777-1343.

### PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

The Board meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm, except in October. The Park and Recreation Board is always looking for volunteers to help with our events and programs. Contact the Rec. Director for details.

### ZONING HEARING BOARD

The Zoning Hearing Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. A staff assistant is available to answer any questions regarding a Zoning Variance Application during normal business hours. Call (610) 777-1343.

### PENSION BOARD

The Pension Board meets whenever the committee deems necessary to perform its functions and responsibilities. A staff assistant is available to answer any questions regarding this Board during normal business hours; call (610) 777-1343.

### MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The Municipal Authority is scheduled to meet on 10/8/15 at 8:00am to discuss the sanitary sewer system.

\*A full listing of boards & commissions, along with a meeting schedule can be found at [www.cumrutownship.org](http://www.cumrutownship.org).

\*\*If you would like to volunteer to serve on one of our Boards with a vacancy, please contact the township at (610) 777-1343 for details on how to declare your interest.

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## TOWNSHIP CLOSINGS

The Township Administrative Offices will be closed for the following Holidays (If the holiday falls on a week day, closed on a Friday if the holiday falls on a Saturday, and closed on a Monday if they holiday falls on a Sunday):

New Year's Day, President's Day, the Friday before Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Day after Thanksgiving, half the day before Christmas, Christmas Day, half of New Year's Eve

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## TIPS FOR MAKING SEWER AND OTHER PAYMENTS

Cumru Township accepts cash, personal checks, and physical checks generated by on-line bill pay services.

Cumru does not accept electronic funds transfers via ACH, debit cards, or credit cards.

- The consumer is responsible for monitoring the disbursement of funds from her/his account.
- The consumer is responsible for being aware of her/his bank's internal policies.
- The Township is not responsible for errors by on-line bill pay services.
- The Township assesses a fee of \$32.00 for deposited checks that are returned for insufficient funds. The consumer is then required to pay the fee and original bill in cash.

## TAX COLLECTOR INFORMATION

### Sitting Dates and Times

- Tuesday, 10 am to 2 pm (no Thurs hours)
- Wednesday, 11 am to 4:30 pm

### CLOSED ON THESE DATES:

- 9/21/2015 - 10/5/2015
- 12/21/2015 - 1/4/2016

### Important Notes

- ONLY FULL PAYMENT ACCEPTED. ONLY EXACT PAYMENT ACCEPTED.
- All payments payable to Kathleen Sonnen, Tax Collector.
- If remitting payment without bill, please note type of tax, current year & tax bill number.
- Refuse fee: After 12/31/2015, unpaid refuse charges are sent to collection agency for payment.
- Real estate taxes: After 12/31/2015, unpaid real estate tax bills are collected by Berks County Tax Claim, (610)478-6625. A fee of \$15.00 per bill is added when filed with Berks County Tax Claim. As of 2/1/2016, ¾% interest is added per month.
- Per capita taxes: Per capita tax is assessed for any person 18 years of age or older, working or not working. Bills dated July, if not paid by 12/31/2015, will be submitted to GH Harris collection agency, (570)639-5005. Bills dated November, if not paid by April 30, 2016, will be submitted to GH Harris collection agency.
- A drop box is available inside the Cumru Township Office Building at 1775 Welsh Rd., Mohnton, PA. DO NOT LEAVE CASH IN THE DROP BOX. Regular office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Township holidays are as follows: New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Friday before Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Columbus Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, after 12:00 p.m. day before Christmas, Christmas Day, after 12:00 p.m. day before New Year. The office closes for 2015 on December 31, 2015, at 12:00 p.m.

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Over the past few years, the Township of Cumru has made it a priority to find better ways of reaching our residents with the information they need. This process started with a face lift of our website (cumru-township.org) and a redesign of our biannual newsletter back in 2010. In 2011, we created a facebook page and have been encouraged by the reach of our posts. Since 2012, we have been packaging our Recreation Schedule with the Refuse and Recycling Calendars to maximize our mailings.

In 2014, we launched two new resources, ParksNFunFinder.org and our mass notification system. The first grew from a cooperative effort between the five municipalities in the Governor Mifflin School District (Cumru, Brecknock, Shillington, Kenhorst, Mohnton) and the Governor Mifflin School District. It was launched this past fall as the Governor Mifflin Parks N Fun Finder (parksnfunfinder.org). The Parks N Fun Finder is a comprehensive source of all of the area Park and Recreation facilities, providers, programs, and events. We look forward to this being a great resource moving forward. In addition to the Parks N Fun Finder, we have also added the capability of generating mass email notifications to inform our residents about Park and Rec.

Events, Administrative Advisories, Public Safety Advisories, and Public Works Advisories. You can sign up for these notifications from either of our websites. Sign up soon to make sure you don't miss the next road closures, recreation program or winter weather advisory.



## SAVE THE SWALES

### WHAT IS A SWALE?

Storm water channels that run across your front yard and under your driveway are called swales. Sometimes, front yard swales receive storm water from swales between lots.

### PURPOSES OF A SWALE

To Drain: Swales drain lots and roadways to help keep them dry. Swales convey storm water away from man-made structures to bodies of water. Swales are also designed to keep the roadbed above the water table - this makes the road last longer.

To Retain: Swales slow the storm water to allow water to soak into the ground. This helps replenish wetlands, streams, lakes, and ponds.

To Treat: Swales allow suspended solids and pollutants to settle out of the water, so some treatment is provided before water is returned to natural water bodies.

### HOW CAN I HELP SAVE THE SWALES?

Don't fill in your swale, not even with landscaping. If your lot has a swale, it was graded that way for a reason. Impeding a swale reduces its carrying capacity and may cause flooding in warm weather and icing in front of your property in cold weather. Keep your driveway pipe clear - it is part of the swale system.

### WHY SHOULD I HELP SAVE THE SWALES?

The way someone treats a swale may be repeated by neighbors who follow that lead. If people make improper changes to a swale along multiple properties, drainage problems are further compounded for the homeowners that receive storm water flow – and that might be you. Conversely, saving the swales can start with one person setting the example with proper maintenance.

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## REMINDERS FROM THE CODES DEPT.

### WINTER IS COMING!

Because the cold weather is almost here, the Codes Department would like to inform landlords about the heating requirements in the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), as adopted by the Township of Cumru. Section 602 of the IPMC, sub-section 602.3 - heat supply, states: every owner and operator of any building who rents, leases or lets one or more dwelling units or sleeping units on terms, either expressed or implied, to furnish heat to the occupants thereof shall supply heat during the period of October 1 thru April 30 to maintain a minimum temperature of 68 degrees in all habitable rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms.

### BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

Alleys are private rights-of-way, subject to "good neighbor" rules. Alleys are not dedicated to the Township and the words "public alley" are excluded from the definition of "highway" by Township ordinance number 550. Property owners should keep their portion of an alley free from obstructions, so neighbors are not deprived of access to their respective properties.



## ATTENTION LANDLORDS

Property owners are responsible for contacting the Township to ensure that an apartment or other tenancy is not a violation of Township ordinances.

REVISED 02/06/2015

### REPORT BY LANDLORD

*As required by Ordinance No. 573 adopted 4/20/99.*

#### Part 1 – Unit Information

ADDRESS OF LEASED UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is this unit a Business Unit? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
a Dwelling Unit? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is this unit occupied? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Not occupied? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of unit (for example, 3 bedrooms, 2 story, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Part 2 – Landlord Information

LANDLORD(S) NAME(S): print \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/ TOWNSHP/BOROUGH \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE, INCLUDING AREA CODE: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part 3 – Tenant Information

NAME(S) OF TENANT(S):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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AGE \_\_\_\_\_ MALE \_\_\_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_  
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AGE \_\_\_\_\_ MALE \_\_\_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_

**Reports by Persons Upon Becoming Landlords** – report the data set forth above within 30 days.  
**Reports of Changes in Use or Occupancy** – report the data set forth above within 10 days after having knowledge of vacancy or a change in occupancy. A landlord of a hotel, inn, or boarding house shall not be required to report a person as a “tenant” until that person has resided in such landlord’s establishment for a period exceeding thirty (30) days.

Both residential and commercial property owners are responsible to report their Landlord Information (Ordinance No. 573) and any changes during the year. The form is provided for your convenience. **Rental money does not have to be exchanged in order to require a response to the Landlord report.**

## RESIDENT INFORMATION

### STORM WATER FACTS:

What many people don't realize is how storm water collects debris, like yard waste and litter. Solid materials bundle together at storm drains and block the flow of rain into storm water pipes. This can result in localized flooding that could have been prevented. Solid materials that get through the storm water system flow directly into local creeks and rivers, often containing pollutants that are harmful to aquatic ecosystems. Like many other municipalities, Cumru Township is responsible for enforcing regulations to minimize yard waste, litter, and other debris in storm water. Accordingly, by Ordinance No. 658, as amended, Cumru Township prohibits the disposal of grass clippings and other material in streets, unless clippings are removed from streets by one hour after sunset on the day on which such clippings are deposited in the street. **When it rains, everyone is downstream of someone.**

Storm drains clogged by trash and debris cause excess stress on other drainage systems which contribute to sinkholes and premature deterioration of roadways by undermining their foundations over time as water seeks alternative routes to drain away under the surface.

### STREET LIGHTS:

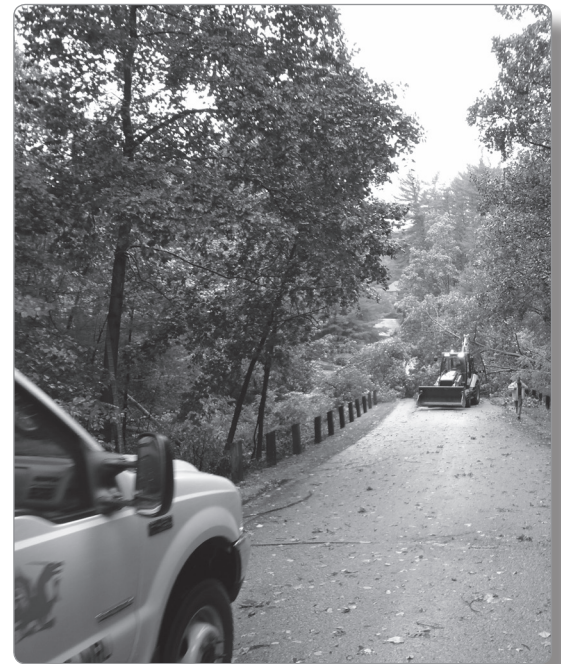
If you experience a streetlight outage, call Met-Ed or PPL directly by using contact information on your electric bill. When trees block streetlights, the lights cannot be serviced. Property owners are responsible for having their trees trimmed so as not to interfere with streetlight maintenance.

### TREE TRIMMING:

Trees and vegetation must be trimmed to provide at least seven and one half feet (7'-6") of clearance above sidewalks and at least fourteen (14') of clearance above streets (Ordinance No. 137). Low branches can damage vehicles, impede sidewalk travel, and block signs. Property owners are responsible for having their trees trimmed. New trees shall be planted a minimum of 10 feet outside of the legal right of way of streets (Ordinance No. 690).

### LEAF COLLECTION:

Leaf collection season has arrived! The Township will begin picking leaves on all dedicated roads on the second Tuesday of October (October 13th) and will continue for nine weeks (December 11th) or until the first significant snowfall. Leaves should be placed in the gutter for collection. Leaves should not be placed in bags or containers. Leaves that are mixed with sticks, branches and other yard debris will not be collected. Leaves in bags or containers will not be picked up during this time of year. Leaf collection crews will work through the Township on a continuing basis without a published day or area schedule. Due to the nature of leaf collection work it is not possible to have a set schedule. Special arrangements will not be made to pick up leaves. The Township has six trucks and five leaf vacuum machines dedicated to leaf collection. With the exception of emergencies, the Highway Department's entire staff (eight men) is assigned to leaf collection duty on a daily basis. During the heaviest times of the leaf collection season the Township will also assign the Sewer Department and Mechanics to assist with the work. Leaf mulch is available to residents on a first come, first served basis. The Township will deliver leaf mulch, when possible, to addresses in the Township. The Township reserves the right to decline delivery based on accessibility problems or concerns such as potentially washing into streams or storm water facilities. Please call the Township to discuss delivery.



## WINTER WEATHER MAINTENANCE:

Less than three (3") inches of snow, the roads will be treated as conditions warrant. Depending on the storm, plowing may not begin until there is at least three (3") of accumulation. Over three (3") inches of accumulation, the road will be plowed if parked cars permit. The number and frequency of passes that the plow will make depends on the intensity, duration and type of frozen precipitation. HOWEVER, no two storm events are the same and temperature, duration, intensity, type of precipitation, time of day, time of year, manpower levels, equipment availability and many other factors will vary from storm to storm. The number and position of vehicles parked along the road will seriously impact the Township's ability to push snow off of the road.

\*It is unlawful to cast or deposit snow and/or ice in streets of the Township (Ordinance No. 332). Cumru Township maintains the traveled cart way of dedicated roads, defined as traveled lanes, as its first priority, so as to minimize snow accumulation becoming a hazard on the roadway. After cart ways are plowed (traveled width), a cleanup and widening operation follows. Roads are plowed in a priority order, beginning with the highest traffic volume routes and working toward the lower traffic routes.

## SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES:

Parking is prohibited along Snow Emergency Routes during a declared Snow Emergency. Check the Township website, [www.cumrutownship.org](http://www.cumrutownship.org), the Township's Facebook page for Snow Emergency updates, or sign up for email alerts (pg. 3).

## POTHOLES:

The Highway Department fills potholes all year round. Please call (610) 777-1343 to report potholes and a crew will be dispatched, as soon as possible.

## NO SEWER DEDUCTIONS:

For those sanitary sewer customers on public water, Cumru Township discontinued the practice of deductions for pool fill-ups or other water that does not go through the sanitary sewer system. Sewer consumption is based solely on water consumption, as required by ordinance.

## SEWER VENTS:

Sewer vents and clean-outs are a critical part of every building's sanitary sewer lateral. They provide access for repair, maintenance and inspection of the sewer pipes that convey sewage from a building to the Township's sewer collection system. The sewer vents and clean-outs are owned by and the responsibility of the property owner. The area around the sewer vents and clean-outs must be kept clear of vegetation, landscaping, and other permanent structures.

## SEWER BACK-UPS:

Residents are encouraged to call the Township before they contact a plumber in the event of a clogged sewer. At no charge, the Township will investigate the problem and advise the property owner on the results.

If you experience a sewer backup, do not flush your toilet or use water until the cause of the problem has been determined. The Township recommends contacting the Sewer Department at (610) 777-1343 Monday through Friday 8a.m.-4:30p.m. or after hours at (610) 607-1815. The Township will check the sewer main and sewer lateral. If the clog is in the main or in the Township's Section of the lateral the Sewer Department will clear the blockage. If the clog is on the property owner's section of the lateral or the building trap, the Township will advise the property owner to contact a plumber. There is no charge for this service.

## HOLIDAY TRASH/RECYCLING COLLECTION

Trash and recycling collections shall not be made on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. When a holiday falls on a Monday or a Tuesday, collection shall be made on the prior Saturday. When a holiday falls on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, collection shall be made on the following Saturday. These changes are reflected in the trash and recycling schedules. Residents are encouraged to place their items curbside on Friday evening.

## CURBSIDE BRUSH/YARDWASTE COLLECTION

There is one curbside "brush and yard waste" pickups remaining in 2015. The collection schedule is as follows:

- If your trash day is Mon: pickup will be Saturday, October 3, 2015
- If your trash day is Tues: pickup will be Saturday, October 10, 2015
- If your trash day is Wed: pickup will be Saturday, October 17, 2015
- If your trash day is Thurs or Fri: pickup will be Saturday, October 24, 2015

Please Note:

1. All brush/yard waste must be set out the night prior to collection. There will be no re-run routes.
2. All brush/yard waste is to be in kraft bags (biodegradable bags) or tied securely with rope or twine not to exceed two (2) feet in diameter, and three (3) feet in length. No wood over four (4) inches in diameter will be taken because of possible damage to trucks. No bundles or bags weighing over forty (40) pounds.
3. The limit per household is 12 bags or bundles.
4. No firewood, stumps, dirt, or rocks will be taken as part of this collection.

## INTERESTED IN RENTING OUR FACILITIES?

**CALL (610) 777-1343 FOR DETAILS**

Looking to host a birthday or graduation party? How about a bridal or baby shower? Don't have enough room at home for that family get together? Our Warren Recreation Center is the perfect solution! With ample space, affordable rates, and all the necessary facilities, make sure you give us a call before you make arrangements anywhere else. We may have exactly what you are looking for. We book quickly, so do not hesitate to call!





## YARD WASTE FACILITY

Open ONLY on the Second Saturday of the Month, Yard waste will not be accepted on any other day. Normal Hours of Operation are 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Winter Hours (Dec-March) are: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The Facility is located off of Poplar Neck Rd.



The following items will be accepted:

- Leaves
- Garden Debris
- Brush and Bushes
- Tree Trimmings
- Weeds
- Flowers and Garden Plants
- Kraft Paper Bags

The following items will NOT be accepted:

- Stumps and/or stump grindings
- Grass
- Plastic Bags
- Root Balls
- Treated or Painted Wood
- Railroad Ties
- Tree Branches (larger than 5ft long & 6in wide)
- Glass
- Trash
- Dirt or Sod
- Concrete or Brick
- Rocks**

Fines up to \$300 will be issued for illegal dumping (Ordinance No. 676). Open ONLY to residents of Cumru. Identification will be required! No commercial vehicles are allowed. The site will be patrolled by police and is under video surveillance.

\*In order to comply with PaDEP regulations, items proposed to be dropped off at the yard waste facility may be declined at the Township's discretion.

## MIFFLIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Hours:  
Monday 9 am-8 pm  
Tuesday 9 am-8 pm  
Wednesday 9 am-5 pm  
Thursday 9 am-8 pm  
Friday 9 am-1 pm  
Saturday 9 am-4 pm

The Mifflin community library is hosting numerous programs and activities throughout the week, including a stitching circle, story time programs, a lego club, and more. Of course they also have a fantastic selection of books, magazines, music, and more available every day. Stop in or check out their website for more information (<http://www.berks.lib.pa.us>).



### Upcoming Events:

Mondays: 9:30 AM Storyrider Story time - 6:30 PM Evening Stitching Circle

Tuesdays: 9:30 AM Preschool Story time - 10:45 AM Toddler Story time

Wednesdays: 9:30 AM Brilliant Beginnings Baby Lapsits - 1:00 PM Afternoon Stitching Circle

Thursdays: 3:30 PM Magic: The Gathering Club for Teens - 6:45 PM Thursday Evening Story time

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## MIFFLIN AREA YMCA

<http://www.ymca-berkscounty.org>

The Mifflin Area YMCA offers a state-of-the-art fitness center, interactive youth center, gymnasium, and child-watch area. Youth and adult programs are running year round and the gymnasium is available for rentals. Financial aid is available, call for more information.

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## NOLDE FOREST EEC

Nolde Forest encompasses more than 665 acres of deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantations. A network of trails makes the center's streams, ponds and diverse habitats accessible to both students and visitors. Teaching stations offer places for students to work and benches for those who wish to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds associated with the natural world. ADA accessible trails are located by the mansion and sawmill.

The Nolde mansion houses offices for the center staff. A garden featuring native wildflowers is adjacent to the mansion. The C.H. McConnell Environmental Education Hall near the mansion is the indoor site for year-round programming.

Explore Turtle Pond      Sunday, October 4      2:00 – 3:30pm  
Help Nolde staff collect and identify the inhabitants of the pond.

Pumpkin Carving in the Park      Friday, October 23      2:30 – 6:00pm      fee \$6.00pp  
Carve two pumpkins, one to take home and one to decorate the park. Leave the mess behind! Volunteers will assist young carvers. Cost includes two pumpkins, tools, and mess removal. Registration required by 10/19. Meet at picnic tables by Mansion parking lot. Latest start time is 5:15pm.

Cast a Glow at the Nolde Mansion Saturday, October 24 6:30 – 9:00pm fee \$1.00 pp  
Explore the path around the Nolde Mansion and take a peek inside. Discover the adaptations of nocturnal animals and the enchantment of the forest in the dark. Last entrance time is 8:30pm. No registration required.

Starry Night Friday, October 30 6:30 – 9:30pm  
Explore the wonders of the night sky. An indoor program by the Berks Astronomy Club will be followed by an outdoor viewing of the night sky.

Do You Want to Build a Snowman? Sunday, December 6 1:00 – 4:00pm  
Learning stations include the science of snowflakes, animals in winter, how to build a snowman to feed the birds, and more. Wear your favorite Frozen t-shirt or costume (optional).

## BERKS ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

### VACCINE CLINIC IN OCTOBER

The ARL offers low-cost vaccinations on the 4th Saturday of the month from April through October. Please be advised that we are only able to vaccinate 100 animals in the allotted time frame. Numbers will be distributed to the first 100 animals and will be given on a first come, first serve basis.

There will be no exceptions. Remember that you and your animals will be standing outside until the clinic opens and to come prepared for variances of weather. Rabies – \$15 Distemper – \$20  
Bordetella (kennel cough) – \$20 Lyme – \$25 for 1st vaccine and \$18 for booster

Venue: Animal Rescue League  
Start: October 24, 2015 1:00 pm  
End: October 24, 2015 2:30 pm  
Address: 58 Kennel Rd, Birdsboro PA, 19508

Please use the lower level side entrance.

- See more at: <http://www.berksarl.org/event/vaccine-clinic-in-october/#sthash.yvnmOWgF.dpuf>

### PETCO ADOPTION EVENT - NOVEMBER

Come out on the last Saturday of every month and meet a few of our adoptables. Find one you love? We can complete an adoption on site! If you have dogs at home, be sure to bring them along for a meet and greet and don't forget to bring their rabies certificate as well.

Venue: Petco  
Start: November 7, 2015 11:00 am  
End: November 7, 2015 1:00 pm  
Address: 4607 Perkiomen Ave Reading, PA, 19606

## POLICE DEPT - COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### BICYCLE REGISTRATION

The police department offers free bicycle registrations as a service to its residents. The registration process only takes a few minutes and consists of an officer obtaining a description, make, and model of the bicycle, as well as its serial number. A permanent sticker with a unique registration number is then attached to its frame. This way, in case of theft or loss of the bicycle, the CTPD will have the pertinent information on file to complete a police report and initiate a search for it. To schedule an appointment to have your bicycle registered, or for questions, please contact Sgt. Jay Steffy, Jr. We will be completing bike registrations at the Fall Fire Festival

### KIDS ID CARDS

The Police Department offers identification cards for children as a service to our community. These ID cards bear the child's name, photograph, a fingerprint, and physical descriptors. They are intended to be kept in a safe place by parents in case of an emergency that may require identification of the child. These cards can be made on an individual basis or in a group setting (Scouts, Day Care centers, etc.) and only take minutes to produce. To obtain a card for your child, or for more information on the Kids ID Card program, please contact Sgt. Kim Brown or Sgt. Tom Pinkasavage. Stop by our tent at the Fall Fire Festival to get your child an ID card.



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## CTPD FACEBOOK PAGE

The Cumru Township Police Department has a Facebook page! Please visit us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Cumru Township Police Department." You will find friendly reminders, police advisories, wanted persons, and details about community programs on our page.

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## CTFD SANTA RUN

The Cumru Township Fire Department will be continuing the annual "Santa Run" through the township on December 24, 2015. Please check [CumruTownship.org](http://CumruTownship.org) and our facebook page during the upcoming weeks for the exact route and estimated times.



## FIRE DEPT - HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### WHY VOLUNTEER?

Becoming a volunteer firefighter gives you a unique opportunity to serve your community while joining a select group of people few ever get to be a part of. Whether you choose to help out in a support role, become a fully qualified firefighter, rescue technician or apparatus operator, or pursue a path to becoming a fire officer, it requires hard work and commitment, but it can also be one of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever have. If you want to be part of a close-knit team, have a desire to learn and keep on learning, and want to help people when they need it the most, then the volunteer fire service just might be for you.

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I VOLUNTEER?

If you're new to the fire service, you'll start off with an orientation period in which you'll be taught basic skills needed to safely help out during emergency responses. Over the first year or two, you'll participate in department activities and emergency responses, filling roles suited to your level of training and ability, and complete the State Fire Academy training that helps you become fully qualified as a firefighter or function in your chosen support role. If you've already spent some time in the fire service, your initial duties will be matched to your level of training and experience. Either way, where you go from there is largely up to you.

### HOW TO JOIN

First, you must complete one combined application to the Cumru Township Fire Department, Cumru Township Volunteer Firefighters' Association, and Cumru Township Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association. You must then pass a criminal background check, complete an interview with the Membership Committee, and be accepted into probationary membership by a vote of the Firefighters' Association. Successful completion of the six month probationary period completes the full membership process. We take applications year-round at the Fire Chief's office in the Cumru Township Municipal Building at 1775 Welsh Road, or you can speak directly with a department officer. There is no cost to apply or to be a member of the department.

More information is online available at <http://cumrutownship.org/ctfdmembership.html>.



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCT. 4-10, 2015



WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES, TEST YOURS EVERY MONTH.

### SMOKE ALARM BASICS:

- Make sure your smoke alarms have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- An ionization smoke alarm is usually more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is usually more responsive to smoldering fires. Both Types of alarms or combination alarms should be installed in the home.
- Smoke alarms and alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Go to [nfa.org/safetytips](http://nfa.org/safetytips) to find out more.

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including basements.
- For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance Use a photoelectric alarm or an alarm with a “hush” button if the alarm is between 10 and 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- If cooking fumes set off alarms, either replace the alarm with one that has a “hush” button, which will silence the alarm for a short period of time, or install a photoelectric type of alarm.
- When installing follow the instructions that come with the alarm.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS:

- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stat outside. Have an outdoor meeting place for your family to go.
- Call the fire department from outside the home.

## FALL FIRE FESTIVAL- OCTOBER 10, 2015

As a Cumru Township resident, your tax dollars help fund the Cumru Township Fire Department. The CTFD would like to thank you for your continued support, and would like to invite you to join us on October 10, 2015 for a Saturday full of family friendly events. The festivities will kick off with the housing of our new rescue engine at 11:30am. After the housing ceremony from 12:00-3:00pm, we will have variety of fire prevention demos, food and refreshments, music, local vendors, and activities for the whole family. The fire apparatus will be on display throughout the day. This is a great opportunity to see how your tax dollars are being spent, and to see the many different ways you can help support your Cumru Township Fire Department.

### Fall In Love With The Fire Service

#### **CUMRU MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

**OCT. 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**10AM - 3PM**

Presented by the Gov. Mifflin Area Fire Dept's.

*Fire Prevention Demos*  
*Open House*  
*Fall Festival*  
*Fire Housing Ceremony*



## COMMUNITY CATS

Working together we can make a difference for the community cats and shelters in our area. Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) has been a proven method to help reduce the cat overpopulation. This program ends reproduction, stabilizes colony populations, and improves cats' lives. The behaviors and stresses associated with mating – pregnancy, yowling, spraying and fighting- stop. Plus there are no new litters of kittens.

In Berks, there are now additional resources available to help us with community cats. Two organizations that focus on community cats are:

No Nonsense Neutering  
1500 Frush Valley Rd, Reading, PA 19605  
[www.nnnlv.org](http://www.nnnlv.org) 866-820-2510

Fairchild Foundation  
58 Kennel Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508  
ARL Surgery Building [www.fairchild.org](http://www.fairchild.org)  
[Fairchildfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Fairchildfoundation@gmail.com)

Our local shelters take in over 4000 cats a year. Fixing 1 community cat can save 200 from entering our shelter doors. If you would like more details on how to TNR in please contact one of the organizations above for more details. Working together we can make a difference!

## ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES



Thursday evenings from 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m. at the Warren Recreation Center. The cost is \$5.00/class at the door. Please contact the Recreation Dept., at (610)777-1343 x. 121 for details.

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## SKILL-A-MONTH CLASSES - SEE FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS

Beginning with two classes in 2015 (to gauge interest), the township is looking to potentially host instructors for a "Skill a Month" program in 2016 teaching easy to learn, cheap to do skills, such as bread making, applesauce making, composting, etc. The goal is to help foster a sense of community, pass along knowledge of skills being lost with the younger generations, and to provide our participants with DIY activities that can help save them a few dollars. Visit Cumru-Township.org or our facebook page for exact programs and dates.

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## SANTA'S MAILBOX - WINTER 2015

A special mailbox delivering mail directly to Santa at the North Pole will be setup in the township building lobby (1775 Welsh Rd. Mohnton PA 19540) beginning in November (Nov. 2) until the 2nd week of December (Dec. 11). Please make sure you include your full name and address so that Santa can write back. We will have form letters available, but feel free to bring a personalized letter from home.

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## ORNAMENT DECORATING - NOVEMBER 20, 2015

Join us for a FREE ornament decorating program. We will provide all of the supplies, as well as, snacks and refreshments. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

To register, call (610)777-1343 x.121 or stop by our offices at 1775 Welsh Road Mohnton PA 19540. Registration is limited.

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## BREAKFAST (OR LUNCH) WITH SANTA

Bring the family out for breakfast or lunch with Santa on Saturday December 5, 2015.

Breakfast will begin at 9:00AM, Lunch at 12:15PM. Both will be served buffet style. Full menus will be available when registration opens.

Along with a great meal, we will have plenty of crafts for the children, a coloring contest, door prizes, horse drawn carriage rides, and of course jolly ole Santa Claus himself, with a special little treat for every child!

Registration limited to 85 (each seating) and opens Monday, October 26, 2015. All registrations must be made in person.

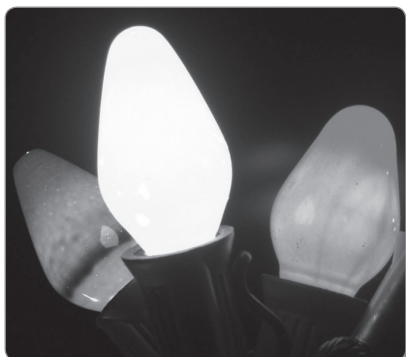
The cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children (all children three years of age or younger are free). Please contact the Park and Recreation Dept. at (610)777-1343 with any questions.



## HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES - DEC. 5, 2015

Join us for some hot chocolate (or coffee if you prefer) and a horse drawn carriage ride. We will be running carriage rides every few minutes from 10:00am-2:00pm. Country Carriage Rides out of Womelsdorf provides a wonderful carriage for us, and a wonderful experience. Bring the family out to create a few great new memories. Carriage rides will be departing and returning from the Warren Rec. Center (1775 Welsh Road Mohnton PA 19540).

## WINTER 2015 - HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST



Decorating your home for the holiday season? Then we are looking for you.

Submit a before and after photo of your home by email to [sgausch@cumrutownship.org](mailto:sgausch@cumrutownship.org) or by mail to 1775 Welsh Road Mohnton Pa 19540 to enter. Our top three homes will be featured in our next newsletter and the home owners will receive a gift certificate to one of the excellent family dining establishments in Cumru Township.

## PENNWYN PLAYGROUND REFRESH

Thanks in a large part to two grants, one from the Center for Watershed Protection and one from Play & Park Structures, Pennwyn playground has been undergoing a full facelift in 2015. It all began in late spring with the replacement of the decades old open air pavilion, and has been continuing in the background with the designing on a new playground, and the engineering of new storm water controls to help infiltrate runoff. If everything goes according to plan, and the weather cooperates both projects are set to be completed in fall 2015.

## COUNTY STORM WATER INLET DESIGN CONTEST

For the past few summers, the Berks County MS4 Steering Committee along with the Berks Conservancy, Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Planning Commission through the Cooperative MS4 Education Program, have sponsored a county wide storm water drain design contest open to all of the county playground programs. Our Warren Recreation Center program won this year's contest with the design to the right, and was awarded a pizza party with Globey. The winning design has been painted around an inlet off of Welsh Road beside the Warren Recreation Center.





# Township of Cumru Program Registration Form

## Program Registration Form

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost/Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Received: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*Make Checks payable to the "Township of Cumru"\*\*\*

Name of Participant (and parent if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent if Participant is a Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Registration in a program constitutes an agreement between the participants and the Department to allow photographs or video of the Participant(s) to be published for promotional use. The undersigned, understand that the listed activity (ies) may involve certain risks, and in consideration of admittance to this activity, does hereby for myself, my minor child, successors, and assigns agree to release, waive, and forever discharge from all liabilities and further agree to indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Township of Cumru, its Commissioners, servants, agents, and employees from any loss, liability, damage, or costs which may be incurred due to participation of this activity.

## Two ways to register:

1. Come visit us at the Township offices
2. Download a registration form online & mail it in



# Township of Cumru

Berks County, Pennsylvania

1775 Welsh Road

Mohnton, Pa 19540

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



governor mifflin area

**sparks'n fun  
finder**

## Fall Cleanup

If your trash pickup is Mon ..... Fall Cleanup is Mon, Oct 5, 2015  
If your trash pickup is Tues ..... Fall Cleanup is Tues, Oct 13, 2015  
If your trash pickup is Wed ..... Fall Cleanup is Wed, Oct 21, 2015  
If your trash pickup is Thurs ..... Fall Cleanup is Thurs, Oct 29, 2015  
If your trash pickup is Fri ..... Fall Cleanup is Fri, Oct 30, 2015

## Trash/Refuse Collection

Collection shall be once a week for everyday household refuse.

## Recycling Collection

Recycling collection shall be every other week.

\*Our recycling program is a single-stream program. This means all recycling materials can be mixed in the recycling container.

\*\*Please see the Refuse/Recycling Calendars for exact dates of collection, available online at [CumruTownship.org](http://CumruTownship.org).

If you experience any problems with your trash or recycling collection, call the Township Office during the next business day at (610) 777-1343.

**VISIT US AT**  
**CUMRUTOWNSHIP.ORG**

