



Borough of Topton

Newsletter

205 South Callowhill Street Topton PA, 19562 | 610-682-2541

January 2022

President's Letter

Hello Topton Borough Residents!

With the turn of the calendar I wanted to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. Topton Borough has been through a lot of changes over the last year but still keeps moving forward.

In 2022 we look forward to completing the TASA project which will connect Home Ave. to the school areas on Weis Street and provide a safe way for students who walk to school. This will also provide a nice walking path through the park and meander over Toad Creek and add to the beauty of our park area.

We also will be bringing back "Music in The Park", the annual fireworks display and many more fun and exciting activities.

Remember, the regular borough council meeting is always the second Monday of every month. I invite you come and see how your elected officials govern. As always, we are looking for people to help with various committees to keep our wonderful community clean, safe and a great place to live!

Sincerely,

Toby Bower, President of Council

tbower@toptonborough.com

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WAYS TO PAY YOUR WATERBILL

Bills are due February 21, 2022

- Pay online at toptonborough.com (There is a \$4.75 fee to pay online with a card.)
- Pay at the office with cash, check, or with a card. (There is no fee to pay with a card in the office.)
- Pay with a check in the drop box in the office door or by mail.

www.toptonborough.com

facebook.com/toptonborough

Borough Officials & News

Borough Officials as of January 2022

Borough Council

- Thomas Biltcliff, Mayor
- Toby Bower, President
- Michelle Lorah, Vice President
- Alane Falcone
- Carol Cook
- Eric Stoudt
- Michelle Stoudt
- Ethan Polinsky

Zoning Hearing Board

- Stuart Chalmers
- Michael Garl
- Vacant
- Alternate-Vacant

Planning Commission

- Andrew Kelhart
- Bruce Meitzler
- Julie Pummer
- Leo Scott
- Dan Schlegel

Municipal Authority

- Andrew Kelhart
- Thomas Reppert
- Lynn Sprankle
- Vacant
- Vacant

Building Codes Appeals Board

- Robert Rauenzahn
- Margaret Reighn
- Ken Reitmeyer
- Vacant

Appeals Officer

- Eileen Black Rodriguez

Vacancy Board

- Arthur Hahn

Tax Collector

- Susan Davis

Welcome to our new council members: Alane Falcone, Carol Cook, Eric Stoudt, and Michelle Stoudt. New members were sworn in on January 3, 2022 and will serve 4 year terms.

The Borough of Topton currently has multiple vacancies in our authorities and boards. If you are interested, please contact the Borough office.

2022 Council Meeting Dates

January: 3 and 10 and, if needed, 24

February: 14 and, if needed 28

March: 14 and, if needed 28

April: 11 and, if needed 25

May: 9 and, if needed 23

June: 13 and, if needed 27

July: 11 and, if needed 25

August: 8 and, if needed 22

September: 12 and, if needed 26

October: 10 and 24-Budget presentation

November: 14 and, if needed 28

December: 12 and, if needed 26



Representative Ryan Mackenzie

134th Legislative District

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Media Contact: Andy Briggs

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RepMackenzie.com / [Facebook.com/RepMackenzie](https://www.facebook.com/RepMackenzie)

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We are Here to Serve You

By State Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-Berks/Lehigh)

As your state representative, my job is about more than going to Harrisburg and voting on legislation before the House of Representatives. In fact, most of my time is spent in the 134th District meeting with residents to hear their ideas and concerns, and to make sure they are aware of the various state programs and services available to them.

My staff and I are here to serve you. Residents are encouraged to call or visit my full-time district office for assistance. We are located in the Lower Macungie Township Administration Complex at 3402 Brookside Road in Macungie. The office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except holidays). Our telephone number is 610-965-9933.

Services we provide include assistance with PennDOT paperwork, PACE and PACENET applications, Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications, help with obtaining birth and death certificates, and referrals to state agencies.

To assist older residents, we host a Senior Day on the third Friday of every month when they can stop by for help in filling out applications for state programs available to them. Seniors are asked to call the office to schedule an appointment.

Another service provided through the office is veterans assistance. Help is available for issues veterans or their dependents may be having in accessing benefits and services from the U.S. Veterans Administration. Anyone interested in talking with an American Legion service officer is asked to contact the office to schedule an appointment, which are available on the second Friday of every month. Veterans do not need to be an American Legion member to take advantage of this free service.

A new service we are now providing is for discarding old or unused American flags. A special box is in the main foyer of my district office where residents can drop off their flags. We will then make sure the flags are disposed of properly and with respect.

Finally, residents are reminded there are a variety of ways for staying in touch with me and my staff. They can email me at RMackenzie@pahousegop.com, visit my website at www.RepMackenzie.com, follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RepMackenzie or connect with me through Twitter at www.twitter.com/RepMackenzie. In addition, residents can also receive my email updates by registering under the "Resources" tab on my website.

As always, I am honored to have the privilege of serving you. If there is anything my staff or I can do to be of service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Seasonal Tips....

Snow Emergencies (Ordinance 2-2011)

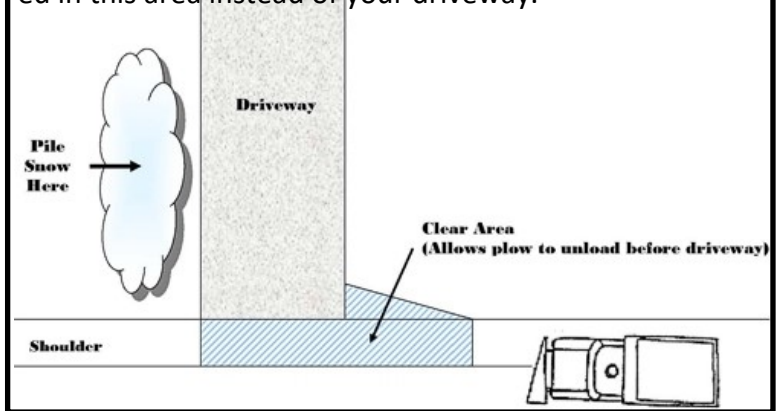
The Borough's main priority once a snow emergency is declared will be to clear snow emergency routes, followed by other streets, and finally the alleys. After the roads are made passable we will start to clear curb to curb. Depending on the storms severity, this process may take a few days.

Remember that cars **MUST** be removed from Snow Emergency Routes, or they will be towed at the owners expense. If a severe storm is expected, please move your vehicle early.

Snow Emergency Routes

Home Avenue, Centre Avenue, West High Street, Main Street, Callowhill Street, Weis Street, West Franklin Street, Hoch Avenue, Haas Street

If you clear your driveway before the street is plowed, here is a tip that will minimize the amount of snow left in front of your driveway. When your driveway is cleared, clear an area to the left of the driveway entrance (standing in the driveway facing the street). When your street is plowed, the snow from the plow can be unloaded in this area instead of your driveway.



REMINDER: It is illegal to plow, shovel or blow snow onto any public street. This creates dangerous driving conditions, as well as, frustrates both the snowplow operator and residents alike.

SNOW REMOVAL: QUALITY OF LIFE ORDINANCE (2-2014)

- Sidewalks must be clear of snow and ice within 24 hours of the end of storm., and KEPT clear.
- It is illegal to blow or shovel snow into roadways, this includes sidewalks and alleys.
- **PROPERTIES WITH FIRE HYDRANTS**—owners are responsible to clear the area surrounding hydrant
- At the accumulation of 4 inches of snow, or at the Mayor's discretion, a snow emergency will be declared. Snow emergencies will be announced on WFMZ, local radio stations , and Facebook.

Prepare Your Home for Winter

Winterize your home & check your heating systems:

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.
- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

Water Department News

It's that time of year again! Time to make sure you have insulated any exposed pipes, like under a porch, and disconnected outdoor spigots. Winter is here... Doing these things will prevent damage!

Sewer Department News

1. Flushable wipes will go down your drain, but they do not break up, unlike toilet paper, which could cause drain blockages in your home or lateral leading to the main sewer line and also wreak havoc at your sewer treatment plant by clogging pumps. So please only use them if you have to. Keep in mind the homeowner is responsible for blockages in the lateral line running from home to curb.
2. Bacon grease and deep fryer grease should be put in a sealable container and thrown out in regular trash; please DO NOT PUT DOWN THE SINK.

WINTER RECYCLING TIPS

- 1) Avoid putting recycling bags directly on the ground. The bags can freeze, stick, and rip, spilling junk everywhere
- 2) Curb your recycling in the morning on pickup days. Bad weather could come through and dump snow all over the bins or knock them over.
- 3) Recycle or donate old appliances, electronics, clothing, and other items. If you get new winter gear, game consoles, TVs, or anything else, please donate your old items to charity and recycle broken items.
- 4) Mulch, compost, or repurpose Christmas plants (trees, wreaths, etc.)
- 5) Don't throw your old or broken Christmas lights in the recycling bin. Throwing lights in the recycling bin can be dangerous and risk starting a fire. Drop them off at your local recycling center instead.

Berks County Recycling Center - <https://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/swa/Pages/default.aspx> / 1316 Hilltop Rd. Leesport, PA



Topton Electronic Recycling Event **Saturday, April 16th, 2022 9-11am** **Weis Street Parking Lot (in front of pool)**

For Topton Borough residents ONLY (IDs will be checked)

Winter Tips to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Deicers come in several forms, consider best choice for your area:

- Rock salt (sodium chloride) is the most commonly used but contains cyanide, as an anti-caking agent that can be toxic to underwater life, and is the most harmful for plants.
- Calcium chloride is considered a better choice than rock salt, because it does not contain cyanide, however, it can also harm plants. Calcium chloride costs about three times more than rock salt, but you only need to use about one-third as much.
- Magnesium chloride is considered the least toxic deicing salt because it contains less chloride than either rock salt or calcium chloride, making it safer for plants and animals.
- Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) is considered the best overall choice for safely melting ice. It is less toxic than deicers containing chloride, but can cost considerably more than rock salt.

Tips for applying deicer:

- Shovel and scrape areas early and often as deicers work best where there is only a thin layer.
- Remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying deicer.
- Follow the label directions. If only a handful of rock salt per square yard is needed, using more isn't more effective, just more expensive.
- Don't use rock salt within 5-10 feet of salt-sensitive plants.
- Remove slush once the snow melts to prevent refreezing.
- Sweep up any remaining salt or deicer after the snow and ice melts.
- Store salt and deicers under a roof or cover to minimize polluted runoff.

Alternative deicers for small areas of thin areas of ice include:

- Warm water mixed with table salt or water conditioning salt
- Sand to improve traction on slippery areas
- Cover small areas (such as your steps) with heavy, waterproof plastic or a tarp.

Source: <https://extension.psu.edu/watershed-friendly-deicing>

Snow Removal Do's & Don'ts

- Do pile snow in locations with the most vegetation which will act as a natural filter and prevent runoff.
- Do clear away snow that may have been accumulated on storm drains.
- Don't pile snow on top of storm drains, near or in water bodies, or in areas where water tends to pond.
- Don't pile snow onto rain gardens and wetlands.

Emergency Services

Police

From the Chiefs Office:

Topton Borough along with the Fleetwood Police Department is committed to keeping the Topton community safe and informed by providing safety tips and suggestions throughout the year.

Several new changes have occurred this year within the Fleetwood Police Department.

As of January 3, 2022 the Fleetwood Police Department has named Sgt. Dale Ulshafer as the new Chief Of Police following a competitive interview process. Chief Ulshafer has been a Fleetwood Police Officer since March of 1999 where he started his career as a part time officer. In 2001 Chief Ulshafer was hired as a full- time officer. In 2018, Chief Ulshafer was promoted to patrol Sergeant. He maintained this rank until being promoted to Chief of Police in January of 2022. Chief Ulshafer has always maintained an open door policy with the community's he serves and welcomes suggestions or concerns from citizens.

Also as of January 2022, Three new part time officers are being added to the force. One officer will be assigned as a criminal investigator and two will be assigned to patrol.

Per Topton Borough ordinance, the Fleetwood Police Department reminds residents to maintain current inspection and registration on their vehicles while parked on Borough streets. Failure to do so may result in vehicles being labeled as abandoned and possibly towed at the owner's expense.

Also as a reminder and with inclement weather being imminent, residents are to remove their vehicles from snow emergency routes when required so that Topton road crews can safely remove snow.

The Fleetwood Police Department wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year!

Chief Ulshafer

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Police (non-emergency) : 610-655-4911

Topton Volunteer Fire Department: 610-682-2755

Topton Ambulance: 610-682-4333

Emergency Services

Ambulance

Happy New Year from Topton Ambulance. 2021 was the busiest year in Topton Ambulance history. We were dispatched to over 1,600 emergency calls for service. We continue to provide 24/7 advanced life support services in the midst of these trying times. We appreciate all the community support over the last year. We are looking forward to a brighter and healthier 2022. Check out our new under construction website www.toptonems.net. Our Night at the Races event is scheduled for Feb 26, 2022. Follow our Facebook page for updates.

Topton Community Ambulance Annual Donation Drive



Topton Ambulance is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization serving the community since 1953. We are a 24/7/365 staffed Advanced Life Support Service that responds to 1,100 emergency calls annually. Our staff uses the motto "Community First" to provide our life saving abilities to our community. We can not continue to provide excellent care without your support! Topton and Longswamp resident EMS tax pays for your Topton Ambulance Subscription.

- The subscription runs from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- A family membership will cover all residents at your household for 911 emergency transports.
- If you are a subscriber, insurance company payments will be accepted once deductibles are met. Remaining balances will be written off.
- If you are the subscriber without insurance, you will receive a \$500 charge. All nonsubscribers will be responsible for the entire bill.
- This applies to 911 Emergency transports considered medically necessary by the Healthcare Financing Administration.

If you would like to make an additional donation to the Topton Community Ambulance, checks may be sent to **PO Box 22 Topton, PA 19562**. (Checks may be made payable to Topton Ambulance) We appreciate your continued support as we serve the community!

Emergency Services

Fire

Tipton Fire Company Year in Review

As we start the New Year off fresh, we wish to share some of our accomplishments from the past year.

In 2021 we were dispatched for 322 emergency calls. We are incredibly happy to say that this was down from the 371 calls in 2020. Which is a great sign that we are doing our job in teaching fire prevention and doing things safely.

We are extremely fortunate that we had fourteen new members join the company as active firefighters or fire police. Ten of those members are high school students taking the opportunity to help the community while working to meet their community service project requirements for graduation.

We had one member complete the Academy on the Road program sponsored by the Lower Macungie Fire Department. He graduated his class with four national level certifications including Firefighter 1. This program is very time consuming for our volunteers as it takes almost two hundred hours to complete.

Throughout the year as many of you have seen we once again had to adapt our methods of fundraising to drive-thru or online events. With the tremendous support from the community, we had another successful year even with all the challenges. We will once again be starting the year out with our drive thru breakfast, Chicken and Pork BBQ sale as well as continuing with the online drawings.

We cannot wait to get back to our in-person events as being amongst the people who support us is our number one goal. There is no better feeling than being able to gather with the members of the community who support us, show our equipment, and answer questions.

Once we can safely do so we will return to our preferred fundraisers of bingo, food sales, craft shows and once again hold our annual open house during fire prevention week.

As always if there are any members of the community 16 years of age or older who would like to join the company, please stop by the station on a Tuesday evening. Any of the men and woman of the company will gladly show you around the station and the apparatus.

We also need volunteers to help with fundraising and the business side of the organization so if you do not want to be an active firefighter and run calls there is a place for everyone. Stop by fill out an application and join what has quickly become a second family to all our members.

Keep an eye out in future newsletters for company updates and some member profiles as we continue to help you get to know our members a little better.

We look forward to another wonderful year in 2022 and hope that everyone stays safe in all their adventures.

Hello BHASD Community,

The Brandywine Heights Area School District is excited to share, the most recent edition of our quarterly, digital newsletter - BulletPOINTS! Please take a few minutes to read all about the amazing things happening in our schools! Scan the QR code to access the newsletter!

From all of us at BHASD, we wish you the absolute best the season has to offer!

The BHASD Team



SCAN ME



BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bullet POINTS

WINTER 2021



GRATITUDE

Throughout this edition you will be able to read about, and see, many of the successes from across the District. These successes would never have been possible without you! The BHASD Team would like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude. To all reading this article, THANK YOU for being part of this wonderful community!! Pictured above, the Intermediate School Kindness Club is doing their part, in partnership with Communities in Schools, for students in need in Berks County.